

Milne quits BBC in crisis of confidence

By Gavin Bell and Richard Evans

A series of crises and the diminishing confidence of colleagues and governors appears to have contributed to the sudden resignation yesterday of Mr Alastair Milne as director-general of the BBC.

The board of governors accepted his resignation at a regular two-weekly meeting yesterday morning. Within hours, Mr Milne had left his office and returned home. Last night he declined to make any comment.

A statement issued by the BBC said he had quit for "personal reasons", but his sudden departure seems likely to precipitate yet another political controversy over the corporation.

The board had expressed its gratitude for his many years of service with the corporation, and a successor would be selected as soon as possible.

Sir John Boyd, a member of the board, said: "I am not aware of his being pushed. It was his personal decision."

However a former leading figure in the BBC said Mr Milne's authority had been eroding for at least two years, and possibly longer.

"The reality of the situation is that his position had been weakening gradually over a long period of time. His departure was more of a slow puncture than of a blow-out."

The loss of confidence in his leadership was said to have extended to the former chairman, the late Stuart Young, and to top executives.

"He was not regarded as being incompetent. But at a time of great political stress for the BBC, and challenges of the corporation in recent months."

But as some backbenchers openly expressed the hope that other BBC heads will roll after the Director-General's announcement, Labour MPs claimed Mr Milne was the victim of government pressure.

Mr Neil Kinnock told journalists at Westminster last night: "I am waiting to see whether there is a fuller explanation of his departure. Frankly I regret it, I think he is a good guy."

Asked if he believed Mr Milne had been pushed or not, the Labour leader said that government's record and motivations it appeared possible.

But other Labour MPs were not so guarded in blaming the Government for Mr Milne's decision to go.

Mr Tam Dalyell, MP for Linlithgow, said: "I believe he has been hounded out of the BBC by constant bickering from politicians."

Mr George Foulkes, MP for Carrick, Cumnock and Doon Valley, added: "I would not be surprised if the Government had become so intense that the real reason for his resignation is that he feels just not able to stand up to it any more. This is a bad omen."

Mr Clement Freud, the Alliance's broadcasting spokesman, described Mr Milne's resignation as a great loss to broadcasting.

Mr Norman Tebbit, the Conservative Party chairman, who criticized the BBC for its "biased" coverage of the Libyan bombing, was last night remaining silent over Mr Milne's resignation.

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Mr Milne: Position gradually weakened

presented by rapid changes in technology, it was felt he did not have the answers to the future.

"The weakness of his position has been the subject of gossip in BBC corridors since at least 1984."

Dissatisfaction with his leadership came into the open last week, when leaders of the BBC journalists called for the resignation of Mr Milne and his deputy, Mr Alan Protheroe, on the grounds that they no longer commanded the confidence of the staff.

The resignation was greeted with scarcely concealed glee by Conservative MPs last night who saw his departure as

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Islamic group threatens to kill Americans



Machine-guns pointing at Mr Robert Polhill, one of the American hostages, in the picture released by his abductors.

Hostages will die if US attacks

From Juan Carlos Gumucio Beirut

A mysterious new terrorist group, claiming to represent an extraordinary blend of Islamic revolutionary thought and Palestinian causes, yesterday threatened to kill four foreign teachers held hostage if the United States launches a military attack on Lebanon.

The threat against the lives of three Americans and one Indian teacher at Beirut's University College came as officials of the Progressive Socialist Party remained reluctant to answer questions about the whereabouts of Mr Terry Waite, who has been missing for ten days.

The "Islamic Jihad (Holy War) for the Liberation of Palestine" organization produced a statement and a picture of one of the hostages.

The message could have not been more graphic: with a terse, one-page communiqué containing the death threat, the group distributed a colour photograph of Mr Robert Polhill, one of the teachers abducted by gunmen posing as policemen last Saturday in West Beirut.

Mr Polhill, who teaches accounting at BUC, appeared with an unmistakable expression of fright, his eyes

starting at the camera lens, ignoring the barrels of two automatic weapons pointing to his head - a Soviet Kalashnikov rifle and an Israeli (UZI) sub-machine gun. The photograph showed an index finger millimetres from the trigger of the UZI.

"We announce that we will execute the four American hostages as an initial measure as soon as any attack is launched," the statement said.

The reference to reports that the US Navy had moved aircraft carriers and other warships to the eastern Mediterranean and northern Persian Gulf, was obvious.

The group made its first appearance on Wednesday night, when it distributed the photographs of Mr Polhill and that of Mr Mithleshwar Singh, an Indian Professor at BUC who has a permanent residence permit in the US.

Both men were seized in what has proved to be the boldest kidnap of foreigners in the Muslim sector of the Lebanese capital.

The other two hostages are Mr Alann Stern and Mr Jesse Turner, two American teachers who refused to leave West Beirut.

Speculation was running high last night that Mr Waite would return to Britain within 24 hours.

Steel pins leadership on election

By Robin Oakley Political Editor

Mr David Steel, the Liberal Leader, is expected to quit the party leadership within a couple of years if the Alliance does not make real progress at the next election.

Mr Steel, now 48, has led his party since July 1976. In an interview in *The Times* today (page 18) he confirms that he, contemplated resignation after the Alliance failed to make as big a breakthrough as he had hoped in the 1983 General Election. And though he has told his MPs that he would not "walk out of the door" immediately after the next election, he says: "If there wasn't a definite advance I would probably not do another full Parliament as Leader."

Mr Steel points out that the Liberals have "bucked the constitution" by failing to put up a candidate against him and allowing him to continue through this Parliament as leader. There is supposed to be an election for the party leader in every Parliament.

He says that he would expect there to be a demand for a leadership contest after the next General Election "and I would have to consider then whether or not to be a candidate."

He goes on: "If it is just a modest advance but nothing dramatically different then I think the party would want to say thank you and goodbye, or maybe I thank you and goodbye."

Mr Steel says, however, that he does not expect to have to contemplate retirement. He claims that the Alliance, which now has an 18-30 per cent showing in the polls, has a better prospect of a breakthrough than ever before.

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US and EEC unite on measures to avert trade war

By Andrew McEwen, Diplomatic Correspondent

Agreement in principle on a deal to avert a trade war between the United States and the European Economic Community was reached yesterday after intense all-night talks via satellite between Brussels and Washington.

Trade worth \$120 billion a year between the world's two largest trading blocs could have been substantially cut if the dispute had escalated.

Britain and West Germany feared severe consequences for the Atlantic Alliance and unemployment.

Ambassadors of the 12 met within hours to consider the deal while in Washington, Mr Clayton Yeutter, US Trade Representative, was expected to seek White House approval.

A diplomatic source predicted final accord would be achieved before tonight's midnight deadline. Failure would result in the Administration applying 200 per cent tariffs on a range of EEC exports including British gin, followed by EEC counter-reprisals.

Sir David Hannay, Britain's Permanent Representative, or ambassador, to the EEC, was expected to convey Britain's approval, diplomatic sources predicted.

Some impact on British and French cereals farmers is expected, and there will also be consequences for producers of 24 agricultural and industrial products who will face stiffer US competition.

British officials took the view that the price was acceptable in view of the need to avoid a disastrous trade war.

Mr Willy de Clercq, the EEC's Trade Commissioner who led the Brussels team, said: "This is a political solution to avoid a trade war."

The US had demanded access for 4 million tonnes of cereals to the two markets with 2.8 million reserved for US suppliers.

The EEC argued that America's loss of agricultural exports would be offset by potential gains on industrial goods, because the two nations would lower their industrial tariffs under EEC rules.

Mr Yeutter replied that this was no help because their tariffs would be cut even more in relation to suppliers from the other 10 EEC countries.

The compromise was a deal to lower tariffs for non-EEC suppliers on a range of 24 products.

Guinness 'paid £3m to broker'

By Lawrence Lever

Mr Anthony Parnes, the stockbroker at the centre of the Guinness affair, yesterday admitted that two Guinness directors authorized a payment of £3 million to him for "key advice" which he provided during the takeover battle for Distillers.

The payment was made to a Swiss company, Consultations et Investissements, connected with Mr Parnes and identified by Guinness last week as appearing on one of the mystery invoices it had uncovered, and for which it had no satisfactory explanation.

Mr Parnes initiated a support operation for Guinness shares carried out by Mr Gerald Ronson's Heron Company. Last week, Mr Ronson returned the £5.8 million Guinness had paid him. Mr Parnes has since left Alexander Leung and Cruickshank, the stockbroker, where he worked at the time of the Heron deal.

A statement issued by Mr Parnes, who lives in a £4 million North London house, last night said: "Mr Anthony Parnes provided key advice to Guinness in connection with the Distillers bid."

"In return a fee of approximately £3 million was paid, which was negotiated on his behalf with two directors of Guinness and which reflected the true value of his services to the company."

"In no sense did the fee represent monies paid as indemnity against movements in share prices."

War against Aids Fowler to bolster community care

By Philip Webster, Chief Political Correspondent

The Government is sponsoring the creation of a new voluntary organization to assist with the care to the community and their homes of dying Aids sufferers.

At the same time Mr Norman Fowler, the Secretary for Social Services, is planning an explicit new publicity campaign directed at drug-users after receiving alarming evidence of the spread of the disease among addicts.

The moves follow Mr Fowler's week-long visit to the US to study how the far more serious Aids epidemic there is being tackled.

The measures were disclosed in *The Times* as the Prime Minister, implicitly backing Mr James Anderson, chief constable of Manchester, told the Commons that she was pleased that people had spoken out to the effect that "morals do matter in Aids".

Mr Fowler's American trip and his visit to see Aids patients in a London hospital this week have convinced him of the need to improve community care facilities.

Partly financed by the Government, the new organization will relieve some financial and physical pressures on hospitals.

As disclosed in *The Times* last week, Ministers are already considering plans for a network of Aids hospices.

The new organization, which Mr Fowler hopes will be headed by some well-known public figures, would bring together the work already being done by various bodies and help terminally ill patients to be cared for and visited in their own homes.

His smile faded only slowly when it became clear that he, a captain of retailing's biggest battalions, was being commended at least partly for his ability to make love rather than war.

But in the end it was his ability to make money that carried the day.

After a long afternoon's counting, the shareholders approved by almost a two to one margin a plan to reward the company's senior executives with a share option scheme.

Many small shareholders were critical that this scheme might add £2.5 million to Sir Ralph's bank balance. The Sir Winston Churchill.

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Aids fear 12

clinics who have Aids has soared from 5 to 20 per cent in two years.

Mrs Thatcher was urged by Mrs Renee Short, Labour MP for Wolverhampton North East, to reconsider her support for Mr Anderson's controversial speech on Aids.

Mr Anderson had described Aids sufferers as "swirling about in a cesspit of their own making".

While the Prime Minister appeared to distance herself from that remark, she made plain that she was in sympathy with Mr Anderson's moral line. "I was pleased that some people, whether from the church or elsewhere, had spoken out to the effect that morals do matter in Aids," she said.

"Governments cannot prevent people from getting Aids but people themselves, by their own conduct, can do so."

Later Mrs Thatcher indicated that she was considering whether to give free needles to addicts, Mr Alan Beck-upon-Tweed, had said: "It would be morally wrong to deny disposable syringes free to those who have no choice but to inject themselves... when you... make them available for drug addicts."

Ministers recognize the concern in many areas, including the Tory backbenches, about the present policy of essentially referring to the Commission only takeover bids which may restrict competition. Mr Paul Channon, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, told MPs this week that he did not rule out referring "the very occasional case", not related to competition, which may give rise to public concern.

Mr Channon has shown little sympathy with calls for changes in the policy on referrals to the commission, saying that if ministers were to intervene on grounds more appropriate to shareholders than "chaos" could result. He has argued that the previous policy on merger referrals, before they were restricted to competition grounds, was essentially referring to the Commission only takeover bids which may restrict competition.

Some ministers would like to see the commission given sufficient staff to enable it to pronounce within 28 days on almost every referral of a proposed merger. The inquiry, being conducted by Mr Hans Lissner, a deputy secretary at the department, is expected to examine what staffing provisions would be required.

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Ministers seek staff to speed merger inquiries

By Robin Oakley, Political Editor

The Department of Trade and Industry inquiry into competition policy and the future scrutiny of mergers is considering plans for a big increase in the staffing of the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

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Telecom clerical staff back

By Tim Jones

As the telephone dispute continued yesterday without any sign of settlement, it emerged that the National Communications Union would consider peace proposals along lines suggested by British Telecom, if the company doubled its pay offer.

Members of the union, meeting in London, reaffirmed total opposition to the offer worth, according to the company, 7 per cent, and supported calls for a 10 per cent "no strings" deal.

In addition, the 30,000-strong clerical section turned down the offer to them of 3 per cent with a further £100 payable in April. But the clerical staff decided to end their three-day strike. They return to work today with a commitment not to end their work-to-rule and overtime ban.

Mr Bill McGlory, NCU clerical group secretary, said: "The offer is unacceptable. We believe a substantial pay increase without strings is necessary if the dispute is to be resolved."

Earlier, Mr Pat Lee, union assistant secretary, accused British Telecom management of "being the real vandals and saboteurs in this affair because of their obsessive pursuit of profit". British Telecom, he said, had deliberately ordered people to work overtime on Saturdays in order to provoke industrial action.

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Shareholders rally to Halpern banner

By Brian James

Sir Ralph Halpern stood looking down modestly upon the massed ranks of his Burton Group shareholders yesterday as he was described as "England's second greatest man of this century" - after Sir Winston Churchill.

His smile faded only slowly when it became clear that he, a captain of retailing's biggest battalions, was being commended at least partly for his ability to make love rather than war.

But in the end it was his ability to make money that carried the day.

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great City institutions were much more swayed by the knowledge that to obtain a reward of this size, Sir Ralph would have to carry Burtons through five more triumphal years for their own tranche of shares.

They gave him his victory and thus the chance of the sort of reward that used to await men who won empires.

There were more than 1,000 shareholders at the extraordinary general meeting in a hall in Park Lane, drawn there in equal part by alarm over the plan to make Sir Ralph very much richer - he is already Britain's highest-paid chairman with a salary last year of £1 million - and curiosity over the ways he had been spending some of the money he had already.

Four days of lurid tabloid headlines about his sexual exploits with a 19-year-old topless model had lacked no detail: we learned of odd games in the kitchen, of tender

moments rubbing his domed head with anti-baldness creme.

Sir Ralph, a man who had spent £2 million building himself a company gymnasium and who is enviably and demonstrably fit for 48, had made singularly little complaint about any of this.

Yesterday's first public appearance of such a man since he thus gave the world stud a new connotation within gents outfitting, produced a slight ripple of applause and possibly some sense of anticlimax. In light grey suit, indeterminate tie and shining professional pate he looked

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Portfolio

There is £12,000 to be won in today's *Times* Portfolio Gold competition because there have been no winners for the past two days.

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Stunt death for TV was misadventure jury finds

The death of Michael Lush, the amateur daredevil who leapt 120ft to his death while rehearsing a stunt for BBC television's *Late Late Breakfast Show*, was a misadventure, the jury at the Milton Keynes inquest found yesterday.

His quest to become a "superstar" led to his death. When he placed his life in the hands of the BBC crew he did not know that the stunt on live television, in Bristol docks, had not been tried before.

Mr Lush was killed instantly when he hit the ground on his first attempt at a training session in Long Crendon, Buckinghamshire, on November 13.

He was training for the "Hang 'em High" stunt to be seen by 8.6 million television viewers.

The audience at the site and millions watching on television would be told that Mr Lush was being handcuffed and placed in a metal box packed with explosives.

The fall from a metal box suspended from a crane was supposed to have been stopped just short of the ground by a bungee elasticated rope.

But on the signal of a whistle from Mr David Nicholson, programme production manager, Mr Lush, aged 25, an unemployed hod carrier, released a mechanism retracting two foot plates and after hesitating, dropped from the box with the life-saving rope snaking out uselessly behind him.

A single carbina clip, of the type used by mountaineers had not been attached to a metal eyebolt on top of the box.

The jury was told there were three obvious possibilities: the BBC team for Noel Edmonds' popular programme had failed to connect the clip to the eyebolt; the force of the rope rubbing against the carbina had opened the gate-lock mechanism and it had become

undipped; or Mr Lush had for some reason undipped it.

The jury was shown a film of tests carried out after the accident with a dummy taking the place of Mr Lush.

It was clear from the film just how much pressure was placed on the carbina during the jump. The most obvious reason for the mishap appeared to be that the carbina had been forced open by the rope and had fallen away.

The jury was presented with a catalogue of errors and oversights which may have contributed to the accident.

Mr Paul Matthews, an escapologist employed to oversee the stunt and to train Mr Lush, did not consult the advice booklet produced by the carbina manufacturers.

He had selected a "quick-lock" carbina for the job. Several witnesses questioned that choice and said a screw-lock mechanism might have been safer.

Mr Lush had been alone in the box when he jumped. He was not fitted with a backup lifeline.

No airbag or safety net was provided. The BBC team believed a net would catch Mr Lush to slingshot in a fall and that he would be catapulted off an airbag. But no research was carried out with net and airbag manufacturers.

There was no means of communication between Mr Lush in the box and the backup team on the ground.

The BBC employs seven safety officers but none of them was present on the day of the accident.

The safety officers had not inspected the equipment to be used in the stunt. There is no BBC rule that states that a safety officer should be present at hazardous stunts.

The stunt had not even been considered dangerous by the BBC team.

The *Late Late Breakfast Show* employed six researchers but none of them carried out research into the equipment used.

Surgery unit for children closes

By Jill Sherman

The children's plastic surgery unit at Stoke Mandeville Hospital, Buckinghamshire, is to close for two months and hip and cataract operations are to be drastically reduced as part of cost-cutting measures.

Children in the middle of treatment, as well as those waiting for non-urgent plastic surgery, will have their operations postponed. Those needing urgent attention will be treated in general surgical wards.

The 17-bed children's ward treats children from throughout the Oxford region. Mr Sammukubhai Narayan Desai, a consultant plastic surgeon, said the move could mean treating urgent cases without proper support facilities.

Aylesbury District Health Authority is expected to overspend by £227,000 on its £37 million budget, mainly because of increased admissions at Stoke Mandeville.

"We have already carried out a series of efficiency measures, including recruitment restrictions. We can no

longer protect patient services," Mr Roger Titley, district general manager, said.

The cost-cutting programme starts today with the closure of the day surgery unit. Mr Titley estimated this move alone would add 350 people to waiting lists for minor operations.

District officers have told orthopaedic surgeons that they will have to restrict hip operations and cut cataract surgery by 50 per cent. They have also told general practitioners to prescribe hospital drugs for seven days instead of 10.

"Any cut in services is of great concern to the district and is very much regretted. Over the year, throughout at Stoke Mandeville Hospital has increased and led to increased expenditure."

GPs said the decision to limit hospital drugs to seven days meant that patients would be queuing at surgeries before doctors had been notified by the hospital of the correct course of treatment.

Young get 'trendy' smoking image

By Thomson Prentice, Science Correspondent

Children as young as six are more influenced by cigarette advertising than adults have realized, a leading cancer charity says.

The study, involving more than 700 children aged from six to 16, has implications for the Government as well as parents and teachers, the Cancer Research Campaign said yesterday.

"The results show that even very young children are aware of cigarette advertising," said Dr Douglas Leather at Strathclyde University, Glasgow, where the study was carried

out. "We now have evidence that children are far more receptive to advertising than adults realize."

Many 12-year-olds and most 14- to 16-year-olds saw attractive qualities in some cigarette advertisements, and were able to distinguish between brand images in much the same way as young adults. They could retain the imagery in their minds, the study found.

One brand meant to children that it was "cool to smoke... like a cowboy...

not hard but tough" while those who liked another were likely to be "young, feminine, sociable, trendy and sporty".

The charity added: "The research has shown that such advertisements are an important factor in promoting smoking among young people and have a role in reinforcing the habit."

"If children can be encouraged not to become cigarette smokers, death rates from lung cancer and other cancers will begin to decline dramatically."

proposals without full public consultation.

That promise was made in response to a petition signed by 10,000 people opposed to similar ideas raised last spring.

"I will support any sensible proposals to combat racism but this idea can only be dangerous to the fragile state of race relations in Lambeth," he said.

Mr Hutchings accused left-wingers of back-door tactics. He says they tried to revive the idea by including the proposals in just two lines of an anti-racist strategy document which the Labour-dominated council attempted to approve on the nod earlier this week.

Miss Leigh said: "I am

A huntin' we will go, but on our feet



Mr Maurice Bell, Master of the Westsleydale Foxhounds, leads a line of his members along a windswept felltop in the Lake District, where the sport of following the hounds on foot is enjoying a revival.

Now midway through their sixteenth season, the Westsleydale is one of seven Lakeland "fell-packs" who

hunt about four days a week. The fell-packs have different traditions from the mounted variety and are neither registered nor recognized by the Masters of Foxhounds, who control their hunts on horse-back more rigidly than is possible in the Lake District's wilder heather-clad highlands. Local sheep farmers thank

the fell-packs. Mr Peter Greig, who farms cattle and sheep locally, claims that the hunts perform a vital role in containing the fox population. "If you hanged hunting the killing would still have to be done. You would have to start gassing and snaring a lot more and I don't think the fox would be a lot better off," he said.

For members of the pack though, the joy of careering across the fells on foot as they follow their hounds in pursuit of the wily fox needs no justification. "I don't come here to see the foxes killed. I come here to watch the hunt work and go through the chase," one said.

(Photograph: Barry Wilkinson).

Car phone users defy safety rule

By Daniel Ward
Motor Industry Correspondent

Most of Britain's 130,000 car telephone users are likely to contravene the latest Highway Code's cautionary advice on when it is safe to use it.

A MORI survey shows that half of all the car telephone users make calls without stopping and three-quarters take incoming calls while driving.

On average, car telephones are used for 90 minutes a week, when 21 calls are made and 15 are received.

Although users are typically experienced drivers covering on average 26,000 miles a year, their telephoning on the move is viewed as "hazardous" by motorists without telephones.

The survey of 400 users was completed by British Telecom, which yesterday published a new safety code.

A committee, which included Britain's chief police traffic officer, Mr John Over, chief constable of Gwent, and Mr Jackie Stewart, safety proponent and former racing driver, recommended that drivers should always use "hands free" telephones where a microphone and loud-speaker replaces a conventional handset.

Mr Stewart emphasized that it was the first information of its kind on the safe use of car telephones.

The code advocates that the driver should assess the traffic conditions before making or receiving a call and never answer the telephone in heavy traffic.

The experts believe greater use should be made of the telephone's facilities to divert calls or store messages.

The number of car telephone subscribers is growing by 2,000 a week.

Last night, Miss Suzanne Hinton, of the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders, said: "The car phone is not just for the businessman. I can see great possibilities for the busy housewife."

Breast cancer Safe infra-red test is found

A cheap and safe method of screening for breast cancer in women aged under 50 has been devised by doctors at hospitals in Aberdeen and Edinburgh.

Instead of an X-ray examination, the process, called telethermography, obtains a picture by shining an infra-red torch beam from underneath the breast.

In an article in the *British Journal of Hospital Medicine*, the doctors conclude that in tests on 129 patients the technique avoids the worry of damage to women aged under 50 from cumulative doses of radiation if they are exposed to regular X-ray examinations.

The idea, developed by a team working with Dr David Wainwright, of Aberdeen University, adapts new meth-

ods of television recording and computer image analysis.

Dr Wainwright says a permanent record can be obtained from a computer print-out, which costs a few pence compared with more expensive X-ray records. The process can also be used in determining whether a tumour is malignant or benign.

Studies with the first instrument, developed with grants from the Grampian Health Authority and the Scottish Health Department, were conducted with known and suspected cases of breast disease. The findings were checked by laboratory tests, and the diagnosis of a tumour was correct in more than 94 per cent of the cases.

The development coincides with a government report on

breast cancer by Sir Patrick Forrest, professor of clinical surgery at Edinburgh, who concluded that the lives of 4,000 women aged over 50 could be saved a year by a screening programme.

The report by Sir Patrick and his team of doctors was uncertain on how often even women aged over 50 should be examined. Telethermography removes many of the reasons for limiting the number of examinations.

The idea of a safe alternative to X-rays for mammography has been a subject of extensive international research. One development that is still in limited use employs the difference in temperature between the surface of the skin of a normal person and the increase in temperature when there is an underlying tumour.

Boy hero started death fire

A boy aged 13 started a fire that killed another boy at a children's home in an attempt to play the hero, Reading Crown Court was told yesterday.

The schoolboy had rescued a child from drowning a week earlier and wanted more acclaim.

Mr Justice Farquharson was told.

The plan went wrong when a boy aged 14 died in the blaze last August, Mr Graham Williams, QC, for the schoolboy, said.

He died from carbon monoxide poisoning at the council-run home in Maidenhead, Berkshire.

The boy, now 14, admitted arson. The prosecution accepted his plea of not guilty to manslaughter and he was placed in county council care.

Snakebite leaves scar on excise service

By Martin Fletcher
Political Reporter

HM Customs and Excise has been obliged to pay £30,000 to a brewer who was forced to cease production of an alcoholic concoction called "Snakebite" because of a taxman's bungle.

According to an Ombudsman's report released yesterday, the brewer planned to extend his range and expand his market by producing a mixture of lager and cider in two-litre bottles. He got in touch with the local customs officer, who said that this would pose no problem as both ingredients were duty-paid.

Believing the duty would be 27p per litre, the brewer started operations and produced 10,600 litres of "Snakebite" in eight months up to September 1985.

The local customs officer rang headquarters for guidance, and was told not only that the brewer needed a licence to mix cider and lager, but that "Snakebite" was classified as a made-wine and was therefore liable to duty at a rate of 98p per litre.

Further production was no longer financially viable.

The Customs and Excise Board admitted to the Ombudsman that incorrect advice had been given, and an ex-gratia payment of £30,000 was agreed to cover the brewer's development costs on the abandoned project.

In a separate case outlined in the report, the Ombudsman upheld a complaint brought by a pensioner who claimed that the Department of Health and Social Security was paying him a penny a week less than he was entitled to for his graduated retirement pension. The DHSS has agreed to pay the arrears.

Parliamentary Commissioner for Administration: First Report 1986-87. Selected Cases 1987-1988. One (Stationery Office, £5.50).

Dyeing swans

Swans and ducks on the Ouse in Cambridgeshire have been turned pink after dye was spilt into the river. Water authority experts are trying to trace the source of the dye and RSPCA officials are examining the birds for permanent damage.

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Public baths would be the Sobukwe

By David Sapped

Streatham Baths, where generations of school children from south-west London learnt to swim, will be renamed after Mangaliso Sobukwe, founder of the Pan-African Congress, if left-wing councillors in Lambeth get their way.

They are proposing to rename more than two dozen local parks and civic buildings after black activists, and yesterday Miss Mary Leigh, the leader of the borough's Conservative councillors, accused them of embarking on a plan which would increase racial tension.

One idea, put forward last year, was to rename Herne Hill's Brockwell Park - so called because, historically, it was the home of badgers and

featured a common well - after Zephaniah Mthopeng. "Who knows who she is? I have discovered she is serving a sentence for terrorist offences in South Africa. I do not believe we should be in the believe of naming anything after men and women of violence," Miss Leigh said.

Another idea was to rename Myatts Fields in Brixton after Sharpurji Saklatwala, Britain's first Communist MP.

Mr James Hutchings, one of only two Conservatives on the 11-member amenity services committee which put forward the plan, accused the Labour majority of going back on an undertaking last year not to put out any such

proposals without full public consultation. That promise was made in response to a petition signed by 10,000 people opposed to similar ideas raised last spring.

"I will support any sensible proposals to combat racism but this idea can only be dangerous to the fragile state of race relations in Lambeth," he said.

Mr Hutchings accused left-wingers of back-door tactics. He says they tried to revive the idea by including the proposals in just two lines of an anti-racist strategy document which the Labour-dominated council attempted to approve on the nod earlier this week.

Miss Leigh said: "I am

appalled by the plan. This sort of inverted racism does nothing to promote harmony. I believe everybody in Lambeth should be free to enjoy a common history - black, white, Asian, male and female," she said.

"The notion that the Labour majority are trying to create a positive image of black people just won't wash. The ordinary people in Lambeth simply do not want their heritage destroyed by naming public places after criminals and terrorists they have never heard of."

"I am sure that most people, regardless of their ethnic origins or their political beliefs, will find the current plan offensive," she said.

Call for moral restraint on Aids

The Government could not prevent people catching Aids, but people themselves, by their own conduct, could do so, Mrs Thatcher said during question time when she was asked about her apparent support for remarks made about the disease by Mr James Anderton, Chief Constable of Greater Manchester.

Mrs Thatcher said (Wolverhampton North East, Lab) she was not referring to that particular sentence quoted by Mrs Short.

Syringes plan for diabetics

The Prime Minister said during question time that she was giving considerable attention to the possibility of providing free disposable syringes to diabetics, a subject on which she had received a number of letters.

Mrs Thatcher was replying to Mr Alan Beith (Berwick-upon-Tweed, Lib) who had asked her to take an interest in the matter as it was morally wrong to deny free syringes to diabetics, who had no choice but to inject themselves daily for the rest of their lives, when she was able to find the resources to make them available to drug addicts to prevent Aids.

Land cash for the North

More than 90 per cent of resources to be allocated by the Government for derelict land grant next year will be spent in the North and the Midlands, Mr John Patten, Minister for Housing, Urban Affairs and Construction, has announced.

He told the House of Commons that £21.14 million had been reserved for grants in 1987-88. Next year's figure compares with £78.38 million for 1986-87, and £75 million of the 1987-88 grant will go to the North, North-west, Yorkshire and Humberside, West Midlands and East Midlands.

Oil revenue buys assets

Mr Norman Lamont, Financial Secretary to the Treasury, said that the £56 billion revenue raised through North Sea oil since 1978-79 had been used to cut overseas debt and to acquire overseas assets.

Million homes sold

More than a million local authority new town and housing association dwellings have been sold in Great Britain since the Government took office, and the remaining stock is less than 6,500,000, Mr Richard Treacy, Under-Secretary of State, Environment, said in a Commons written reply.

Praise for councils

London boroughs and local authorities generally were congratulated for coping well in extremely difficult conditions with the clearing of roads for traffic during the recent cold spell. The congratulations from Mr Peter Bottomley, Under-Secretary of State for Transport, appeared in a written reply, in which the minister added that the department would be taking stock with the local authorities of any lessons from the recent experience.

Travel study

The Department of Transport expects to receive by the spring a report from consultants up and pointed last March to look at options for improving travel by all methods, including road, between Heathrow and central London. Mr Peter Bottomley, Under-Secretary of State for Transport, said in a Commons written reply.

1,337 charged

The number of people charged with offences connected with the Wapping dispute had risen to 1,337 by January 27, Mr Douglas Hogg, Under-Secretary of State, Home Office, said in a Commons written reply.

Services to limb patients 'will be protected'

Detailed assurances that the service to patients who needed artificial limbs would be protected and the current backlog cleared, given by J E Hanger Ltd earlier today to the Government, were reported to the Commons by Mr John Major, Minister for Social Security.

Labour MPs asked the minister to see representatives of the workforce, but he said that he would not take sides in the dispute. He said that it was a negotiable dispute which could and should have been resolved.

In his statement, Mr Major said that the dispute at J E Hanger Ltd had centred on the company's manufacturing facility at Roehampton, south-west London, one of 23 Hanger establishments throughout the country. There had been no sign of it spreading to other Hanger establishments or to other limb companies.

On Wednesday, after Acas discussions, proposals for a settlement had been put to a mass meeting of the company's former employees by national officials of the Furniture, Timber and Allied Trades Union (FTAT) and of the Technical Advisory and Supervisory Section of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers (AUWE).

It was not clear whether the national officials had recommended acceptance of the proposals, although they had resulted from discussion between unions at national level and the company. The local workforce had apparently rejected the proposals on a public ballot at a mass meeting.

The company had then issued a statement that they proposed now to make alternative manufacturing arrangements to continue their service, although Roehampton would continue to be company headquarters and to operate a clinic and repair service.

The Government's primary interest was to ensure that a prompt and efficient limb service remained available to patients. He had accordingly invited the company's managing director to discuss how that might be maintained. He had made clear to him that he expected every action to be taken to protect patient services and to clear the current backlog.

To achieve that he had sought and obtained a number of assurances. A joint team was to be established immediately between the DHSS and the company to monitor the service to patients and ensure priority treatment for urgent cases. That was in addition to procedures established last October.

He had also received detailed assurances that alternative facilities were available to cope with the manufacture of specialist limbs for adults and children previously undertaken at Roehampton. Such cases could and would be dealt with without delay.

He had been assured that the specialist spare parts facility at Roehampton could be replicated elsewhere within the firm.

"The company proposes to recruit an additional 80 staff throughout the country to maximise production capability and this process is now well advanced.

"This is a very regrettable dispute that could and should have been resolved. It has delayed some services to limb patients, although such delays are not widespread. Any patient facing difficulty should not hesitate to contact his local limb centre or the DHSS so that urgent action can be taken to deal with emergencies.

"The Government will continue to regard the interests of patients as their first concern." Mr Frank Dobson, an Opposition spokesman on health and social security, said: "This is a most unsatisfactory statement about a most unsatisfactory situation which has betrayed the continued complacency of the Government which pretends that in some way the dispute is not in any way its responsibility.

The contract for the supply of limbs is not between Hanger and those who need limbs but between Hanger and the Government. Can he confirm from DHSS records that no less than 11 limb fitting appointments have had to be postponed as a result of the failure of the company up to now to supply repaired or new prostheses on time, in breach of the contract

which Hanger have with his department?

Can he confirm that the number of patient attendances for fittings in the months affected by the dispute compared with the number of attendances in the same months of the previous year show that there were 487 less in October-November, 325 less in November-December and 145 less in December-January, giving a total of 957 fewer people getting fittings as a result of the dispute?

Can he confirm that the number of people getting primary fittings—those who have just had an amputation and need a fitting—has markedly declined? If so, how has the reduction come about? Are amputees being kept waiting or are surgeons postponing amputations which can be postponed, even at some risk to patients?

Is it not plain from the history of the dispute that everyone in this House was convinced that the owners of Hanger—BTR—was not to take over the firm, and that BTR has also demonstrated that it is quite unfit to have a virtual monopoly of the supply and fitting of artificial limbs within the health service?

When will the minister act as a party to the contract for the supply of limbs to make sure that they are supplied to people entitled to get them?

When will he talk, not just to the managing director, but show some impartiality and talk to representatives of the workforce to come to a satisfactory solution of this industrial dispute, instead of leaving them standing on the pavement when they would far rather be inside, providing a good, decent, dedicated service to limbless people? Mr Major: That is precisely why I set out the series of detailed actions last October. The dispute is exceedingly serious, and I have made no secret of the fact that I wish it to be resolved without delay.

Mr Dobson's figures are correct in broadly two thirds of the cases. The number of appointments postponed over a period of 18 weeks is 112. That needs to be set against a total of 3,000 appointments a week.

The number of patient delays amounted to 420, rather than the 957 fewer which he maintained. I am not aware of delays in providing fittings of the order he set out. It is precisely to ensure that it does not occur that I have established the extra procedure I outlined.

I wish to ensure that primary amputees are given the priority treatment which Mr Dobson and I wish to ensure.

On the question of complacency, if he looks at my statement in October he will see the whole series of actions which have since been maintained.

I decline to take a stand between employers and employees.

Mr Jack Ashley (Stoke-on-Trent South, Lab) said that the Government was the sole customer and therefore had a responsibility to intervene to achieve a settlement.

A settlement could easily be achieved if the firm would accept that no self-respecting trade unionist would go back to work while some of his colleagues were locked outside.

If the Government would accept that advice and intervene there could be a settlement and disabled people could be helped. Mr Major said he could not accept that view. It was precisely for that reason he had made reference to Acas. The matter of a settlement was not a matter for the Government to determine. There had been a concordat reached at national level, but this was rejected by the local workforce.

Mrs Renee Short (Wolverhampton North East, Lab) asked whether someone in the health department could take a day-to-day interest in the dispute.

Mr Major said there were already a number of officials reporting events to him daily so that action could be taken that might help.

Mr Ray Galley (Halifax, C) urged action to introduce greater competition in artificial limb production to protect the least fortunate and most vulnerable sector of the community. Mr Major said that a solution had been available on Wednesday. It was to be regretted that that opportunity had not been taken.



Mr Frank Dobson: This dispute betrays the Government's continued complacency.

Chalker approval for end to 'hostilities'

The successful outcome of negotiations between the United States and the European Community, said in the Commons at the start of a debate on developments in Europe.

She said that agreement had been reached earlier in the morning on the trade effects of enlargement of the Community. Although it had yet to be officially confirmed, she was confident that it would be.

There would be no increase in US tariffs on European grain or other exports. The Community had confirmed its offer of a reduced levy quota for corn and sorghum exports to Spain, mainly from the US, plus some other lesser concessions.

The Government saw the European Community as a vehicle for widening the scope for enterprise in Britain and Europe and the freedoms enjoyed by the people of Britain and Europe.

"As a country we have succeeded in loosening the dead hand of state control over individuals and enterprises and

EEC TRADE

as a continent we are succeeding in relaxing the grip exercised by other states too.

This approach was shared by most of the rest of the developed world. There was a popular enterprise wind sweeping Europe.

Significant problems remained, but the record was one of solid achievement. She would not underestimate the tasks for the year ahead. There would be difficult negotiations on the future financing of the Community and continuing adaptation of the common agricultural policy.

"There are many challenges and opportunities ahead, but we have begun a very great change."

Mr George Robertson, Opposition spokesman on European Community affairs, said the fact that a last-minute face-saving device might be found did not diminish the harm that had been done to Euro-US relations by bitter and often near-hysterical exchanges across the Atlantic.

Thatcher renews onslaught on the New Statesman

Renewing her attack on the New Statesman for carrying an article on the secret Zircos project, Mrs Thatcher said during Prime Minister's question time that the magazine had deliberately chosen to publish information which could be of benefit to Britain's potential enemies.

She said that a clear condemnation of that behaviour was still awaited from the Labour Party, although Mr Kinnoch had upheld the Government's view that showing the BBC film about Zircos made by Duncan Campbell, the author of the New Statesman article, would prejudice national security. He had also agreed that one breach or threatened breach did not justify a further breach.

She was replying to Mr Robert Atkins (South Ribbleside, C) who said that thousands of his constituents worked in the defence industry and they honoured their obligation to keep details of their work secret. They had a right to be angry and frustrated, therefore, at the activities of left-wing journals publishing information which could damage national security. He said that the Government

PRIME MINISTER

had done all in its power to limit this subversion and the Prime Minister should not prevail upon Mr Kinnoch, if necessary on private councillor terms, to stop the activities of his so-called supporters which were so

Mr Gareth Wardell (Gower, Lab): Bearing in mind the fiasco of Westland, the Wright case and Zircos, should not the country now regard the Attorney General as having been rather more like a fool than a fall guy? Mrs Thatcher: No.

Mr Patrick Nicholson (Telford, C) unsuccessfully sought an emergency debate on what he called a breach of national security posed by the intention of the Welsh Campaign for Civil Liberties to show the film to a public audience in a Cardiff club on Saturday.

The Government would not prejudice the outcome of the review of the Takeover Code announced yesterday, the Prime Minister said during question time in the Commons.

The second legacy of Britain's presidency was the so-called triumphant deal on the CAP. In the cold light of day a month later the deal looked a little threadbare.

The third legacy of the presidency was the botched job on promoting the internal market and the fourth was the rightly exposed bogus plan to tackle unemployment. It was a feeble gimmick dressed up to placate an increasingly worried electorate throughout Europe.

There was no budget for the European Community for 1987. "We are so used to the soap opera of the European Community budget crisis that we might be forgiven for thinking this is only another one of the same, but it is in a category all of its own."

It was all the worse because British ministers last year cynically pushed the matter off their plate on to that of the Belgians (who took over the EEC presidency from Britain on January 1) and in the process made it much worse. There was an in-built suicide mechanism, the CAP, which would render more drive the Community into more wholly unproductive debt.

Abortion Bill gets second reading

The following report appeared in later editions of this newspaper yesterday.

Bill to prevent a pregnancy being terminated after 24 weeks, rather than after 28 weeks, as is presently the case, was given a second reading in the Lords. The Government supported the Bill but said that it would need amendments.

Introducing the Bill, the Bishop of Birmingham, the Right Rev Hugh Montefiore, said that the only issue in his two-clause Bill was whether it was immoral and wrong to kill a child that was capable of being born alive.

If a child could live when it breathed air, it was wrong to kill it at that stage of development in its mother's womb. The only exception should be where the mother's life would be at risk if the pregnancy continued.

Since the 1929 Act setting the 28-week limit, medical science had made advances that increased the likelihood of survival of a baby born after 24 weeks.

The Bill was supported by the Royal College of Midwives and, with certain reservations, by the BMA.

Lord Houghton of Sowerby (Lab), moving an amendment to delay the Bill, which was defeated by 41 votes to 31, said that the 1929 Act, which the Bill would amend, allowed a penalty of up to life imprisonment for the abortion of a fetus after 28 weeks.

The law put the onus of proof on the mother and a jury would be reluctant to convict her in those circumstances, especially when there was no infallible way of telling if a fetus was 24 weeks old.

Lady Braye (C), in a maiden speech, supported the Bill. She said that the only incontestable way of proving a fetus under 28 weeks was capable of being born was that it should be born alive.

That was clearly an unsatisfactory state since modern abortion methods inevitably meant death of the fetus.

Lord Beaverbrook, the government spokesman, said the law should reflect changes and advances in medical knowledge and for that reason the Government would support the Bill. It would need amendment otherwise it would act retrospectively so that doctors who had performed terminations on 28-week-old fetuses five years ago could be prosecuted.

Lord Houghton of Sowerby said he was shocked by the Government's decision. It had gone yellow and deserted all those whose co-operation it had sought in 1985 to carry out its existing policy of controlling late abortions by voluntary and disciplinary methods.

"We will fight this all along the line to get removal from the law of the presumption of guilt from the 1929 Act. I know of no law in recent years which contains any clause of presumptive guilt where the penalty is a maximum of imprisonment for life. That is a blemish upon the criminal law."

"There is a long bitter fight ahead. I warn the Government they will lose the good will of so many organizations and people, professional and otherwise, if they are going to take this line on this Bill."

The main business in the House of Commons next week will be: Monday: Debate on the Royal Navy.

Tuesday: Channel Tunnel Bill, remaining stages.

Wednesday: Rate-Support Grants Bill and Parliamentary and Health Service Commissioners Bill, second reading.

Thursday: Social Fund (Maternity and Funeral Expenses) Bill, second reading.

Friday: Private members' Bills: Human Rights Bill and Hedgerow Protection Bill, second readings.

The main business in the House of Lords will be: Monday: Debate on the inner cities.

Tuesday: Fire Safety and Safety at Places of Sport Bill, committee.

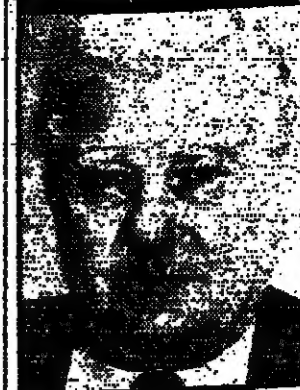
Wednesday: Debate on problems facing some local authorities.

Thursday: Debtors (Scotland) Bill, committee. Territorial Sea Bill, second reading. Coal Industry Bill, second reading.

Parliament today

Commons: (9.30): Private members' Bills: Crossbows Bill and Licensing (Amendment) Bill, second readings.

COMMENTARY



Geoffrey Smith

In the early 1970s the Labour Party was in danger of tearing itself apart over British entry into the European Community. "In all my 13 years as leader of the party," Lord Wilson of Rievaulx records in his memoirs, "I had no more difficult task than keeping the party together on this issue."

He managed to do so with the aid of an artful stage-man. The terms of entry were to be renegotiated by the incoming Labour Government and the result put to a consultative referendum of the British electorate. So neither side of the Labour debate had to renounce its convictions. They both had to agree to be good democrats and in effect leave the final decision to the British people.

The process was messy, but it worked. There was the remarkable spectacle of different members of the Labour Cabinet fighting on opposite sides in the referendum campaign. But there were no resignations. Britain's place in the Community was confirmed by the electorate and the result was accepted even in the Labour Party for the lifetime of that Government.

Call for firm commitment

Now the same device should be used to get Labour off the political hook of its defence policy, according to Mr Eric Hammond, the general secretary of the electricians' union. "The Labour Party should give a firm manifesto commitment to hold a referendum on the single issue of defence policy," he suggests in the current issue of the EETPU journal *Context*.

The attraction of the proposal should be evident to all Labour multilateralists. It would be a means of demonstrating conclusively to the unilateralists, once Labour was in office, that most people in this country do not want a non-unclear defence strategy.

It would increase Labour's chances of winning office. No longer would it be possible for its opponents to maintain that the election of a Labour government would automatically leave the country inadequately protected.

This might appeal even to some Labour unilateralists who would quietly prefer to give priority to winning office, if they could so without seeming to jettison their principles. One of the political advantages for Labour in a referendum is that it would offer their unilateralists just that option.

But would such a scheme, ingenious though it is, be in the best interests of the country? Mr Hammond was able to point in his article to the precedent not only of the EEC referendum but also to the referendums on Scottish and Welsh devolution. All these referendums are now widely regarded as having served a useful purpose.

They are not, however, precise precedents. I have argued previously that a referendum can be justified only if three conditions are fulfilled. It must put a question that can be answered by a straight yes or no. It should deal with an issue that has become immediately relevant: a referendum should not be used as a glorified opinion poll. And it should be confined to constitutional questions.

No consistency of policy

The other referendums fulfilled all three conditions. A referendum on defence policy would not fulfil the last condition.

That is critical. A referendum on a constitutional issue determines the system under which policy should be decided. It would be quite another matter for a referendum itself to decide policy.

How would it be possible to distinguish between those questions which required a referendum and those which did not? How could there be any consistency of policy if detailed issues, sometimes of considerable complexity, were to be decided on the whim of the general electorate without the necessary careful examination?

There is no indication that this is how most people in this country wish to be governed. On the contrary, they want to elect governments which will then get on with the job. Hence the preference for strong administrations.

As an outside observer I do not like Mr Hammond's idea. I do not believe it would serve the interests of good government. But if I were a Labour politician I would grab it with both hands.



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A clutch of red faces for the disunited Alliance

By Robin Oakley
Political Editor

The SDP/Liberal Alliance may have adopted "prime gold" as its new colour for the campaign beginning with its Barbican jamboree on Saturday, but the predominant shade of SDP and Liberal faces at Westminster yesterday was instead red, going on puce.

As the Prime Minister pointed out with glee, when fed the opportunity to do so by the Tory backbencher Sir John Begg-Davison, at the very moment when Dr David Owen and Mr David Steel were on television on Thursday night proclaiming Alliance unity they were voting in separate lobbies at Westminster. It was, she said, walking proof that they were not a real Alliance.

The Tory Party chairman, Mr Norman Tebbit, joined in the fun, with a proclamation that while an SDP party political broadcast aimed

to show the togetherness of the two parties and their leaders, Dr Owen was voting with the Government against a Labour motion calling for statutory regulation of the City while Mr Steel voted with Labour in favour of it.

The seriousness with which the Government still takes the Alliance threat and the Conservatives' determination to prevent the Barbican rally engendering an Alliance recovery was emphasized when the consumer affairs minister, Mr Michael Howard, added his bit, writing to both Alliance leaders to inquire: "Coming as it did in the week of the relaunch of your so-called 'Alliance', can we regard this as the precedent on which your relations with each other will in future be based?"

But this was the Alliance split that wasn't, one of those pictures which begins in the middle for the benefit of the people who came in half way through.

What happened was not a new clash to rival the September split on defence but, in the words of the Liberal whip, Mr David Alton, "pure cock-up".

The Alliance had agreed to vote against the Government at the end of the debate on the City. But Mr Alton had been taken ill and left the bench.

His SDP opposite number, Mr John Cartwright, was away. And the Alliance spokesman in the debate, Mr Ian Wigglesworth, had marched swiftly away to vote at the end of the debate.

Alliance MPs straggling in from all quarters of Westminster and beyond and seeking the guidance of their whips as to which lobby to vote in found neither whips nor guidance. One or two assumed they were meant to be in one or other lobby, some correctly, some incorrectly. Others caught sight of their colleagues and assumed that they must be doing the right thing if they followed them.

The result was that in the Ayes lobby were found a pale-faced Mr David Alton, in a brief respite from bending over a basin, Mr Clement Freud, Mr Simon Hughes, Mr Roy Jenkins, Mr Charles Kennedy and Mr David Steel - a clutch of four Liberals and two SDP members.

In the Noes lobby were Mr Paddy Ashdown, Mr Alex Carlile, Mr Geraint Howells, Mr Richard Livsey, Mr Michael Meadowcroft, Dr David Owen, Mrs Elizabeth Shields, Mr Richard Wainwright and Mr Ian Wigglesworth, a total of eight Liberals and, again, two SDP members.

It could not be called a split between the Liberals and the SDP, only in any sense one within the two parties. But it was hardly, for Owen, Steel and Co their most glorious hour. Preparing to present themselves to the public as ready to run the country, they could scarcely have handed their opponents better ammunition.

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Social trends

Second jobs increase and more women go to work

By David Smith and Tim Jones

A growing number of people in Britain have second jobs. In 1985, 778,000 people admitted having a second occupation, compared with 700,000 in 1984 and 550,000 in 1983.

The official measure of second jobs, contained in *Social Trends*, probably does not come near to measuring the true extent of the black economy.

It shows, perhaps surprisingly, that most of the second jobs among men were held by those in managerial and professional occupations.

Two-thirds of people with second jobs worked for less than 10 hours a week in them, although 10 per cent said that they worked for more than 20 hours a week in their second job.

The number of people in all types of employment in Britain has shown remarkably little variation during the past 25 years. But there have been big changes in the composition of employment.

According to *Social Trends*, there were 24.4 million people in employment, including self-employment in 1985. That compared with 24.5 million in 1981.

The public sector has grown, accounting for 6.6 million jobs in 1985, compared with 5.9 million in 1981. The private sector shrank from 18.6 million to 17.8 million jobs during the same period.

Manufacturing jobs continue to disappear. Between 1971 and 1985, 1.1 million jobs were lost in metal-working, engineering and vehicle production, and another million in other manufacturing industries.

But banking and finance boomed, adding 640,000 jobs, as did other services, with an extra 1.2 million people employed.

Most self-employed people work in construction, hotels, retailing, repair work or agriculture. The self-employed accounted for 10.6 per cent of the employed labour force in 1985, well up on the 7.4 per cent figure for 1979.

Employment among women, particularly in part-time jobs, has grown sharply. Between 1971 and 1984, an extra 1.4 million part-time jobs for women were created, although there was a 495,000 reduction in the number of full-time female jobs.

Overall, the importance of women within the labour force has grown rapidly. In 1971, women, in both full-time and part-time jobs, accounted for 38 per cent of employment in all industries

and services. By 1984, that had risen to 44 per cent.

In 1985, 62 per cent of women of Indian, Pakistani or Bangladeshi origin were "economically inactive", the statisticians' term for women looking after the home. That compared with 33 per cent of white and 28 per cent of West Indian women.

Long-term unemployment began to rise markedly since 1979. In July last year, 41 per cent of all claimants had been out of work for more than a year compared with 25 per cent in July 1979.

According to the figures, the average family enjoyed a 12 per cent boost to income, after allowing for inflation, in the first six years of the Thatcher government.

But the present Government will be hard pressed to match the pre-election surge in income under the last Labour government. In 1978 real household disposable income jumped by 7.8 per cent, followed by a 4.7 per cent increase in 1979.

Income patterns have changed during the past decade. In 1975, 69 per cent of household income came in the form of wages and salaries. By 1985, that share had dropped to 60 per cent.

In its place, there was more from social security benefits, up from 10 to 13 per cent of overall income, from rent, dividends and interest, up from 6 to 8 per cent, and from self-employment income, which increased from 8 to 9 per cent of total income.

The average male manual worker earned £163.60 a week in 1985, compared with just £26.20 in 1970. For women manual workers average weekly wages rose from £13.40 to £101.30 a week.

In 1985, an average of 2.07 million men and 949,000 women depended on unemployment and supplementary benefit for their income. That compared with just 283,000 men and 101,000 women 25 years earlier.

Growing concern by trade unions about falling membership is also borne out by the statistics which show they have lost ground every year this decade.

The statistics show that by the end of 1984, 11.1 million people in the United Kingdom were unionized.

Since then, in a period not covered by the survey, the decline has continued until, last year, the figure stood at 9,585,729.

Social Trends 17 (Stationery Office, PO Box 276, London SW8 5DT; £19.95).

Rise and fall of trade unions

	No of unions	Membership (thousands)	% Change since previous year
1974	501	11,754	+2.7
1975	470	12,183	+3.6
1976	473	12,026	+3.0
1977	481	12,388	+3.7
1978	482	13,112	+2.1
1979	453	13,289	+1.3
1980	438	12,947	-2.6
1981	414	12,106	-6.5
1982	408	11,553	-4.2
1983	394	11,337	-2.2
1984	371	11,088	-2.2

* Thirty-one organisations previously regarded as trade unions are excluded from 1975 onwards because they failed to satisfy the statutory definition of a trade union in Section 28 of the Trade Union and Labour Relations Act, 1974.

Health care

Smoking costs NHS £370m

Smoking related illness cost the National Health Service an estimated £370 million in 1984. The Health Education Council spent nearly £10 million on anti-smoking programmes between 1977 and 1985, and the tobacco industry continued to spend several times that amount each year on advertising.

According to a survey carried out by the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys, 13 per cent of school children in England and Wales smoked regularly, compared with 11 per cent in 1982.

The report also shows that fatal road accidents costs the taxpayer an average £200,000. This includes loss of output, police and insurance administration, medical services, damage and an allowance for pain and suffering. The estimated cost of all road accidents in Britain in 1985 was £2.8 billion.

The number of NHS hospital beds fell by 20 per cent between 1971 and 1985. During the same period the number of in-patient discharges in the United Kingdom increased by 22 per cent, mainly because of a reduction in the length of time patients spent in hospital. For patients in medical beds this fell from 14.7 days in 1971 to 8.7 in 1985.

Transport

Unskilled do badly in car stakes

By Rodney Cowton

Fewer than one in four of households headed by an unskilled manual worker had a car in 1984.

In that year 62 per cent of households in Britain had a car or van available for private motoring, compared with 53 per cent in 1971.

About 17 per cent of households had two or more vehicles, compared with 9 per cent in 1971.

The number of cars in Britain was put at 343 per 1,000 population, well behind the levels of ownership in countries such as the United States or West Germany.

But the availability of a car in British households varied widely.

In households headed by a professional 93 per cent had a car available, compared with 67 per cent in households headed by a skilled manual worker and only 23 per cent in households headed by an unskilled manual worker.

On the railways, the figures showed that in 1985 40 per cent of express trains and 23 per cent of other trains ran late, with Eastern Region having the worst record for Inter-City trains, with 48 per cent running late.



Dreams of an international career in ballet take flight today for two schoolboys.

Alexander McKinnon (left) and Darren Berry, both aged 12, are flying to Hong Kong to perform, alternately, the role of the page in a production of *Sir Frederick Ashton's Romeo and Juliet* by the London Festival Ballet.

Darren, from Barking in Essex, and Alexander, from south London, have been receiving tuition from Peter Schaffner, artistic director of the company, who will dance Romeo.

Borough fights £3.8m grant cut

The London borough of Greenwich launched an attempt in the High Court yesterday to stop the Government taking back nearly £4 million of its rate support grant for this year.

The Labour controlled council is asking Mr Justice Taylor to declare it unlawful for Mr Nicholas Ridley, Secretary of State for the Environment, to redetermine its block grant after a mistake in

calculations relating to the abolition of the GLC.

Mr John Howell, for the council, told the judge that it could have wide ranging implications for many local authorities and would mean Greenwich would lose £3.8 million.

The mistake in calculations about the allocation of the GLC highway maintenance grant to boroughs was announced by the Government

in January last year.

Adopting the "more appropriate" method recommended, the minister now proposes to redetermine the allocation.

But Greenwich claims that the minister is already bound by his decision under the 1980 Local Government Planning and Land Act and seeks orders restraining him from taking back the money.

The hearing continues.

Experts in attack on policy for addicts

A top American professor yesterday criticized the National Health Service treatment of drug addicts and praised the controversial methods used by Dr Ann Dally.

A British expert told a disciplinary committee hearing a complaint against Dr Dally that London's NHS drug clinics encouraged crime and the black market in drug substitutes.

Professor Arnold Trebach, director of the Institute on Drugs Crime and Justice at the American University in Washington, said that Britain was heading for failure with its new-style treatment of addicts which involved short, sharp detoxification. He told the General Medical Council disciplinary committee that his research showed that the approach did not work.

Dr Dally, aged 60, has been accused of "irresponsibly" prescribing for a fee the heroin substitute, methadone.

Dr John Marks, director of the Merseyside regional drug dependency unit, said that when long-term addicts tried detoxification at his clinics the failure rate was 90 per cent.

He said that he, like Dr Dally, advocated the use of drug substitutes because they stopped addicts stealing to buy drugs and possibly ending up in prison.

The hearing continues.

IBA wants go-ahead for radio network

By Gavin Bell
The Independent Broadcasting Authority has urged the Government to give approval for a national independent radio network as soon as possible.

The authority has also put forward its case for administering commercial radio at national, local and community levels.

There has been speculation that a forthcoming Green Paper on the future of radio might put the Cable Authority in charge of community radio.

However, Lord Thomson of Monifieth, the IBA chairman, said yesterday he felt very strongly that this would not be appropriate.

There could be a battle of the airwaves if local and community stations in the same areas were run by different bodies, he said.

The IBA's experience in supervising self-financing local radio stations gave it an advantage in ensuring future networks were effectively and economically administered.

Responding to criticisms from some existing local stations that IBA control was too rigid, Lord Thomson said: "It is difficult to strike a balance between competition, which is desirable, and unfair competition, which is not. But we are not a nanny, protectionist body determined to defend the status quo."

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The Waite mystery: Worries remain • Westerners leave • Man of trust

Fears about envoy's safety grow despite assurances

By Nicholas Beeston

The wife of Mr Terry Waite, the missing church envoy, and British diplomats trying to locate him remained sceptical yesterday that the negotiator was safely continuing his talks with hostage-takers in Lebanon.

In spite of a confident statement from Lambeth Palace announcing it had received assurances from Druze Muslim contacts in Lebanon and Syria that its envoy was safe and would emerge when negotiations were complete, Mr Waite's nine-day absence from public view appears out of character, even with his unusual negotiation style.

For the first time since he voluntarily dismissed his Druze bodyguards on January 20 and disappeared to a rendezvous with Shia kidnapers holding at least two Americans, his wife, Frances, broke her silence and admitted she was still "very concerned" for his safety.

Other members of his family, including his mother, Mrs

Lena Waite, have repeatedly stated that the seasoned negotiator regularly contacts his family during his often dangerous missions abroad.

Mr John Gray, the British Ambassador in Lebanon, said in a television interview: "We have been very, very concerned over the past few days."

The UN Security Council yesterday condemned hostage-taking in Lebanon and called for the release of all captives (Zoriana Pysariwsky writes from New York). It came at the request of Britain, the US, West Germany and France.

with the fact that there has been no news of Terry."

Similarly, the Foreign Office was unsatisfied with the explanation of Mr Waite's prolonged disappearance. A spokesman said: "We believe the link between Waite and the Druze is still broken and we still have no news from our embassy to reassure us that he is all right. There is still no independent evidence to confirm the claim by the Druze."

Although operating in uneasy coexistence with the Shias, Druze militiamen have been known to intervene by force to help foreigners in Lebanon, including Russians, Americans, and Britons.

Mr Waite embarked on his latest round of negotiations in the hope of persuading members of the Iranian-backed Islamic Jihad group in Lebanon to release Mr Terry

Anderson and Mr Thomas Sutherland, two Americans it is holding.

Before he went underground, the Archbishop of Canterbury's envoy told his Druze bodyguards not to be worried if he was absent for more than 24 hours.

There is speculation that he may have planned to visit the hostages in the Iranian fundamentalist stronghold of Baalbek, in Lebanon's eastern Bekaa Valley.

Other reports indicated the negotiator may have even secretly left Lebanon and travelled to Iran.

In the absence of any hard facts, there is growing concern that Mr Waite may have involuntarily become embroiled in a split within Islamic Jihad, or that his mission may have been compromised by the arrest of Lebanese Shias in West Germany.

Iran advantage, page 8

Amal plays down Palestinian retreat

Sidon (Reuters) — The Shia Muslim Amal militia yesterday dismissed as "propaganda" a surprise Palestinian withdrawal from a strategic village in south Lebanon.

The withdrawal had been a key Amal demand prior to a truce to halt the bloody four-month-old camps war in Lebanon between Palestinian guerrillas and the Shia militia.

Witnesses said some 500 heavily armed guerrillas loyal to the Palestine Liberation Organization's chairman, Mr Yasser Arafat, left the village

of Maghdoushe yesterday and hauled heavy artillery down to the Ain al-Hilweh refugee camp.

A new PLO front line was set up about half a mile from the village, the witnesses added.

But an Amal statement said "the withdrawal was only propaganda... Until a real withdrawal is staged, the (Amal) movement considers itself unconcerned."

Analysts said Amal was displaced by the way the evacuated positions were

taken over by about 150 Sunni Muslim militiamen from nearby Sidon's "Popular Liberation Army".

"We insist that Amal take back positions... in the village," an Amal politburo member, Mr Haidham Jumaa, said.

Only in this case, he said, could serious discussions be held on future Palestinian-Lebanese relations and a ceasefire in the camps war.

Loyalists of Mr Arafat said they had decided to abandon the positions, captured from

Amal in November, to help an Iranian peace bid.

Iran-led peace initiatives have been blocked for weeks by the question of which should come first — the Palestinian evacuation of Maghdoushe or the lifting by Amal of sieges of Palestinian refugee camps in Beirut and the south.

Amal said on Wednesday night that, if the Palestinians withdrew, it would lift the sieges.

At least 750 people have been killed since September 30 in the PLO-Amal struggle.



Candida Erwin, of Canterbury, stepping off a ferry in Larnaca, Cyprus, yesterday after evacuation from Beirut.

Last US teacher at Beirut school quits

Larnaca, Cyprus (AP) —

The last American teaching at Beirut's American Community School left west Beirut and arrived in Cyprus yesterday. He said the kidnapping on Saturday of four foreign teachers at another school was "the last straw".

Mr Robert Foss said he had not left the school building since two Americans were kidnapped four months ago, but kept himself busy teaching and correcting papers.

He said the school, which in the early 1970s taught 1,000 mostly US students, now has all Lebanese students, with the

exceptions of a Pole, a Bulgarian and a Yugoslav. The Principal is an American.

Mr Foss said his evacuation was arranged by the US Embassy and Lebanese security forces.

"I was very uptight after what happened at Beirut University College on Saturday night," he said. "I was just hoping I would get out alive."

He said the kidnapping of three American men and an Indian, who were teachers at Beirut University College, "did it for me". He had lived in Beirut for 20 years.

White House confirms Iran's Bible story

From Michael Binyon, Washington

The White House yesterday confirmed that President Reagan did inscribe and sign the Bible given to Iranian officials last year by a former National Security Adviser official and gleefully displayed to photographers in Tehran on Wednesday.

Mr Larry Speakes, the spokesman, said Mr Reagan signed the Bible in the White House on October 3 last year at the request of Admiral John Poindexter, then National Security Adviser.

"It was a gesture to indicate that those who were there were truly representing the President and the President, too, was a man of God," he explained. It was the first White House admission of the existence of the Bible, which Iranian officials said last November was brought to Tehran with a cake shaped like a key and Colt pistols.

Mr Speakes said he was "almost certain" that the Bible was given to the Iranians by

Lieutenant-Colonel Oliver North, the dismissed National Security Council aide. He took it to Frankfurt and handed it to Iranians who were meant to pass it to Iranian leaders. "Oh, he initiated the idea," because there had been discussions about the common religious heritage between Muslim and Christian and Jewish religions," Mr Speakes said.

Hojatoleslam Hashemi Rafsanjani, the Speaker of the Iranian Parliament, displayed the title page of the Bible at a press conference and the picture was on the front page of most American papers yesterday.

Meanwhile, Sotheby's in New York was quick to point out yesterday that the signed Bible, one of the more bizarre documents of the Reagan presidency, was already very valuable and would fetch about \$100,000 on the open market, enough for 15 Tow count rate.

A mediator who inspires trust

From Robert Fisk, Tehran

When Terry Waite reaches a critical stage in any of his hostage missions, he usually telephones his wife "just to say hello". As he once admitted, he really wants to hear his wife's voice in case it is really "goodbye".

He never underestimated the danger of his visits to Iran, Libya and Lebanon; he spoke often of the perils in Beirut, of those who might wish to destroy the humanitarian act which he regarded as the most difficult of his career.

But the longer the American hostages remained incarcerated in Lebanon, the greater the challenge appeared to him.

"I've got to get them out — I've just got to get those chaps out," he once told friends in London, banging his fist into the palm of his left hand. And the hostages learned what he was doing.

Mr David Jacobson, released last autumn, described how he and three companions sat in their underclothes on Christmas Eve in 1985 and thanked God that Terry Waite was trying to help them. "We just love that guy," he said.

Yet Terry Waite does not make friends easily, nor is he easily defined. A man who worked with Mr Waite for the release of British hostages in Libya was surprised to find that in private conversation he did not always act the part of the self-confident, ebullient lay preacher who appears so composed in television interviews.

"It is remarkable how the power of prayer was not always quite enough for him," he said. "He needs friends to encourage him — he needs friends to believe in him."

Mr Waite, some of his friends say, is essentially a very lonely man. Perhaps

that is the reason he can be trusted.

And his interlocutors clearly do have confidence in him. With Colonel Gaddafi — with whom he negotiated the release of Britons in Tripoli — he happily discussed Greek cultural influences on Islam. With the Iranians, he chatted about the nature of revolution.

Mr Waite is a man people want to trust because he is the man — convenient perhaps, but essential — through whom two mutually hostile forces, be they governments or gunmen, can speak.

In Beirut, he would rely upon Lebanese intermediaries to take him to meet the kidnappers of Islamic Jihad. He would afterwards travel publicly to the United States to tell American officials what they had said. The kidnappers would know this and approve — it was they, after all, who first invited Mr Waite to Beirut in 1985.

The Archbishop of Canterbury's envoy is not a cypher; he is the method of communication between two parties who might otherwise resort to violence, which is why he is needed as well as trusted.

As a message carrier, he is crucial. But the dangerous cracks in his travels are only too obvious. Merely to carry a message is to carry one's own credibility to it. If kidnappers feel they might be betrayed — however illusory their fears — then the messenger may be the first to suffer.

When Mr Waite flies out of London he carries with him something of the temporal power of the Church of England, one of the few bodies that simply cannot be said to have taken a side in Lebanon. That prestige has to remain untarnished.

WORLD SUMMARY

Rape trial delay

Monza (AP) — Three policemen charged with raping a young Briton appeared in court yesterday for the start of their trial, which was then postponed at the defence's request.

Signor Luigi Salvarini, a defence lawyer, said the trial was put off until tomorrow to give him and a colleague more time to prepare.

The Briton, wearing a turquoise-coloured dress and an overcoat, was surrounded by photographers as she arrived. She was identified in the Italian press as "Hilary", aged 20, living with an Italian family in an area outside Monza and working as a groom.

The three accused have been identified by authorities as Luca De Masi, aged 27, Mario Grimaldi, 24, and Franco Monti, 20. They have been suspended from the carabinieri, Italy's paramilitary police, and have been held in the same barracks where the woman alleges the rape took place on January 16.

Cabinet resigns

Islamabad — The provincial Cabinet of the North West Frontier province of Pakistan has resigned at the request of Mr Arbab Jangir Khan, the provincial Chief Minister, after a reported cabinet revolt (Hasan Akhtar writes).

The Chief Minister demanded the resignation of all 14 cabinet members after the dismissal on Monday of Mr Ishaq-ul-Khan, a provincial minister, and a protest resignation over his colleague's removal by Mr Naseebullah Khan, another provincial minister, next day.

Spanish switches

Madrid — Señor Marcelino Camacho, aged 69, one of Spain's best-known trade union figures, announced here yesterday that he is to step down after ten years as secretary-general of the communist-run Workers' Commission (Richard Wigg writes).

Señor Abel Matutes, one of Spain's two European Commissioners, has said he is willing to stand for the chairmanship of Spain's principal opposition party, the right-wing Popular Alliance. If elected, he does not intend to step down from the Brussels post.

Chirac outlines goals

Paris — M Jacques Chirac, the French Prime Minister, outlined yesterday the Government's three main priorities for the coming year: pursuit of economic recovery, greater job and training opportunities — particularly for the least privileged, and an improved social dialogue between unions, Government and employers (Diana Goldes writes).

At the first presidential style press conference ever given by a Prime Minister under the Fifth Republic, M Chirac said that, since coming to power 10 months ago, the Government had already laid down the foundations of a truly liberal society and that was a considerable achievement. He admitted, however, that the Government had just passed through a "tumultuous zone" of student demonstrations, strikes, a cold spell and disorder on the international monetary front.

Adviser on tour

Washington — Mr Frank Carlucci, the National Security Adviser, left yesterday for a three-day fact-finding tour of Central America, his first overseas visit since moving to the White House at the beginning of the month (Michael Binyon writes).

He will go to Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador and Costa Rica — the four countries which surround war-torn Nicaragua. Mr Carlucci will not visit Nicaragua itself.

Pressure in prison

Jerusalem — Mr Mordechai Yanoun, the Sunday Times' nuclear informant, intends to continue his hunger strike at least until next Thursday (Ian Murray writes). The Jerusalem District Court will then make a decision on his application to see his girlfriend, Miss Judy Zimmet, without a sound-proof glass screen between them. The hunger strike started 27 days ago, and his family say he has been losing a lb a day.

Principal leaving

Victoria Principal, right, better known as Pam, the reconciled wife of Bobby Ewing in the television series Dallas, is to leave the show when the current season ends. She has played Pamela Ewing for nine years in the long-running Texas soap opera.



Adam drops his leaf

Florence (AP) — After having been covered for more than three centuries by censors, Adam and Eve are to lose their protective leaves and return to the original nudes depicted in Masaccio's fresco *Expulsion from the Garden of Eden*.

During the restoration of the Brancacci Chapel in Santa Maria del Carmine Church in Florence, experts discovered that the leaves had been added in the 16th century, almost two centuries after Masaccio finished the masterpiece.

Signorina Ornella Casazza, artistic director of the two-year project, said: "It was part of a movement to cover the part of the body considered sinful. But the fact is that man in his natural state is nude, and as in most great works, Masaccio painted Adam and Eve completely nude."

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المجلة 1550

US arms sale helps Iran gain a military edge on Iraq

From Robert Fisk, Ahwaz, Iran

Despite assurances to the contrary in Washington and Tehran, President Reagan's secret supply of arms to Iran appears to have given the Iranians a distinct military advantage in their war against Iraq.

Spare parts for the Hawk missile system shipped to the port of Bandar Abbas last year have helped the Iranians to extend their anti-aircraft defences behind their front lines opposite the Iraqi city of Basra and have prevented the Iraqis from using ground-attack aircraft.

Batteries of US-made Hawk missiles can be seen near the Karun River, east of the battlefields outside Basra and around the forward air bases which the Iranians use to attack tankers in the Gulf.

Iran has possessed the Hawk missile system for more than eight years but a critical shortage of spare parts crippled the country's air defence network until early last spring. Mr Abdul Ali Mohammedi, a captured pilot from the Iraqi 49th Air Force Squadron at Nassariyeh, said that Iran's air defences had improved significantly during the past 11 months and forced Iraqi bombers to fly at much higher altitudes.

He was captured during Iran's latest offensive around Basra after his MiG 23B jet was shot down, apparently by a Hawk missile.

The pilot said Soviet, French and Indian technicians

were advising the Iraqi Air Force at Nassariyeh and claimed the Iraqis often used a base in Kuwait for bombing missions against Iran.

Iranian officials produced the pilot at a press conference, together with 10 Iraqi officers. The United States supplied more than 2,000 Tow wire-guided anti-tank missiles to the Iranians last year.

The irony of all this is that — for different reasons — neither the Americans nor the Iranians wish to credit last year's secret arms shipments with a role in Iran's latest military successes. President Reagan does not want to anger the Arab world — or the American electorate — by suggesting that Washington has helped Iran to achieve victory on the battlefield.

The Iranians have no wish to see America credited with victories which have been won with Iranian blood. If the US is the "Great Satan", as Ayatollah Khomeini's world view would have it, then Iran can scarcely admit that so demonic a power helped to turn the tide of war against Iraq.

Hojatollah Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, the Speaker of the Iranian Parliament, said on Wednesday that Iran's air defence network was based on missile systems from America and the Eastern bloc and that it would be too costly to integrate another nation's equipment.

End of road for would-be muggers



Senator Jair Rodrigues, a Rio de Janeiro councillor, marching two would-be muggers to a police station in the city. The two attacked him when his car stalled on a busy motorway, but he pulled out a gun and took them into custody.

Israeli corruption claims

Gift of watch to Peres causes storm

From Ian Murray

Jerusalem
It was in August of 1984 that Mr Shimon Peres, who was then simply leader of the Labour Party, received a gold watch for his birthday from Mr David Balas, a financier.

Yesterday Mr Peres sent it back because by the mysteries of Israeli coalition politics the gift was threatening the continued existence of the Government and had become an issue which might threaten the Middle East peace process. In any case, the watch was valued at only 400 shekels (about £167) and not worth the political cost.

The watch has achieved notoriety because Mr Balas has fallen on hard times. An investigation into his involve-

ment with the United Kibbutz Movement has ended with him being charged with defrauding it of about £20 million.

While in jail awaiting trial, Mr Balas has not been silent. Perhaps in the hope that the powers that be can persuade the court to drop the charges, he has been telling the press about his political gifts. In an interview with *Hadashot*, he revealed that he had made illegally high donations totalling \$600,000 (£389,610) to the party in 1984 and had promised another \$400,000. Hinting broadly at what the donations were for, he said he changed his mind about the second donation.

There were alleged to have been even larger donations

totalling \$800,000 to the tiny Yahad Party, led by Mr Ezer Weizman, a close ally of Labour.

As for personal payments, during 1984 Mr Balas paid out \$23,000 in consultation fees to Mr Adi Amoral, then head of the Labour faction in the Knesset finance committee and today Deputy Finance Minister.

There was, too, the gift of the watch, news of which came out while Mr Peres, now Foreign Minister, was in Europe talking about the peace process. Reports of what he had to say there angered Mr Yitzhak Shamir, the Prime Minister.

Mr Peres told European leaders that Israel was ready to

take part in an international peace conference, provided these led to direct negotiations. The Prime Minister promptly told television, radio, and then the Knesset that his Foreign Minister was wrong and that he opposed any such conference.

Mr Shamir's Herut Party called for a police investigation into all the gifts, including the watch. Yesterday the investigation was given the go-ahead.

Mr Shmuel Einav, a land dealer, has alleged in court that he paid bribes to Herut at Mr Shamir's instigation to obtain sale permits and building licences in the occupied territories. Mr Shamir could not remember any such deals. The case continues.

Reaction to Gorbachov reforms

Russians applaud novel prospect of secret ballots

From Christopher Walker, Moscow

As Western analysts dived down their Communist Party statutes yesterday in an effort to decipher the significance of the sweeping reforms announced this week by Mr Mikhail Gorbachov, most ordinary Moscovites appeared to be relishing the idea of bureaucrats facing the prospect of secret ballots for the first time.

"We know that many of them have had an easy life for years, but until recently we have not dared speak out about the problem," one of the 19 million Communist Party members said. "I hope this will give people the chance of challenging those who have been misusing their position or who should have been pensioned off long ago."

Providing a string of Moscow workers and officials strongly backing the call for reform. Mr Anatoly Arisakov, a party official at a factory in the capital, praised the section of Mr Gorbachov's address which stressed what he called "the need for broader intra-party democracy, in particular greater accountability by the Communists for the way they perform their direct duties."

An office worker with a son, aged 9, spoke enthusiastically about the attack by the Krenin leader on the moral degeneration, corruption and official "parasitism" of the Brezhnev era.

"The best thing in the speech was to hear what we all knew to be the truth about that period from our own leader. We are not the fools that they took us for," she said.

Although many dickheads inside the party no doubt deeply resented the speech and its implications, it was not easy to detect criticism here yesterday. The only mild rumour I heard was from a Moscow sociologist, who said Mr Gorbachov had failed to give credit to the late Yuri Andropov for starting the clean-up campaign in the wake of Brezhnev.

"There was a tendency to give the impression that the

this winter a "consultative council" was set up to encourage the participation of non-Communist intellectuals in shaping decisions. In the next few months the Poles will also introduce a plan for a "civil rights ombudsman".

Now Mr Gorbachov, whose advisers are of the same generation as those of Poland's General Wojciech Jaruzelski, is trying to put forward similar ideas.

The point is to make the Communist Party more credible in Soviet bloc society and raise the calibre of provincial leadership.

To the Prague leadership of Mr Gustav Husak, these new winds must seem very dangerous. The Husak line-up has barely changed since 1968 and has resisted market-style economic reform. While Moscow is freeing dissidents, Prague is freeing members of the Czechoslovak Jazz Section on trial.

In Bulgaria, the leadership is proving more deft at economic reorganization, but it also senses trouble ahead.

The sad fact, however, is that, although the Communist shake-up has the appearance of high drama, nothing much can be achieved in the short run.

Last September all Solidarity prisoners were freed and

Prague and Sofia are caught out of step

From Roger Boyes, Warsaw

Mr Mikhail Gorbachov's proposals for democratizing the Soviet Communist Party have put some of the more glacial leaders of Eastern Europe on short notice: if the Czechs and the Bulgarians do not change course, they will be out of step.

No wonder then that the first reactions from Prague and Sofia have been bemused accounts of the Soviet leader's speech. But there is no mistaking either the noises of approval from Warsaw and Budapest, which believe they have influenced the Kremlin.

The problem facing the whole Soviet bloc is how to link economic reform with political change, and how the Communist Party organization can respond to popular needs. The party must be made more accountable without undermining the chain of command.

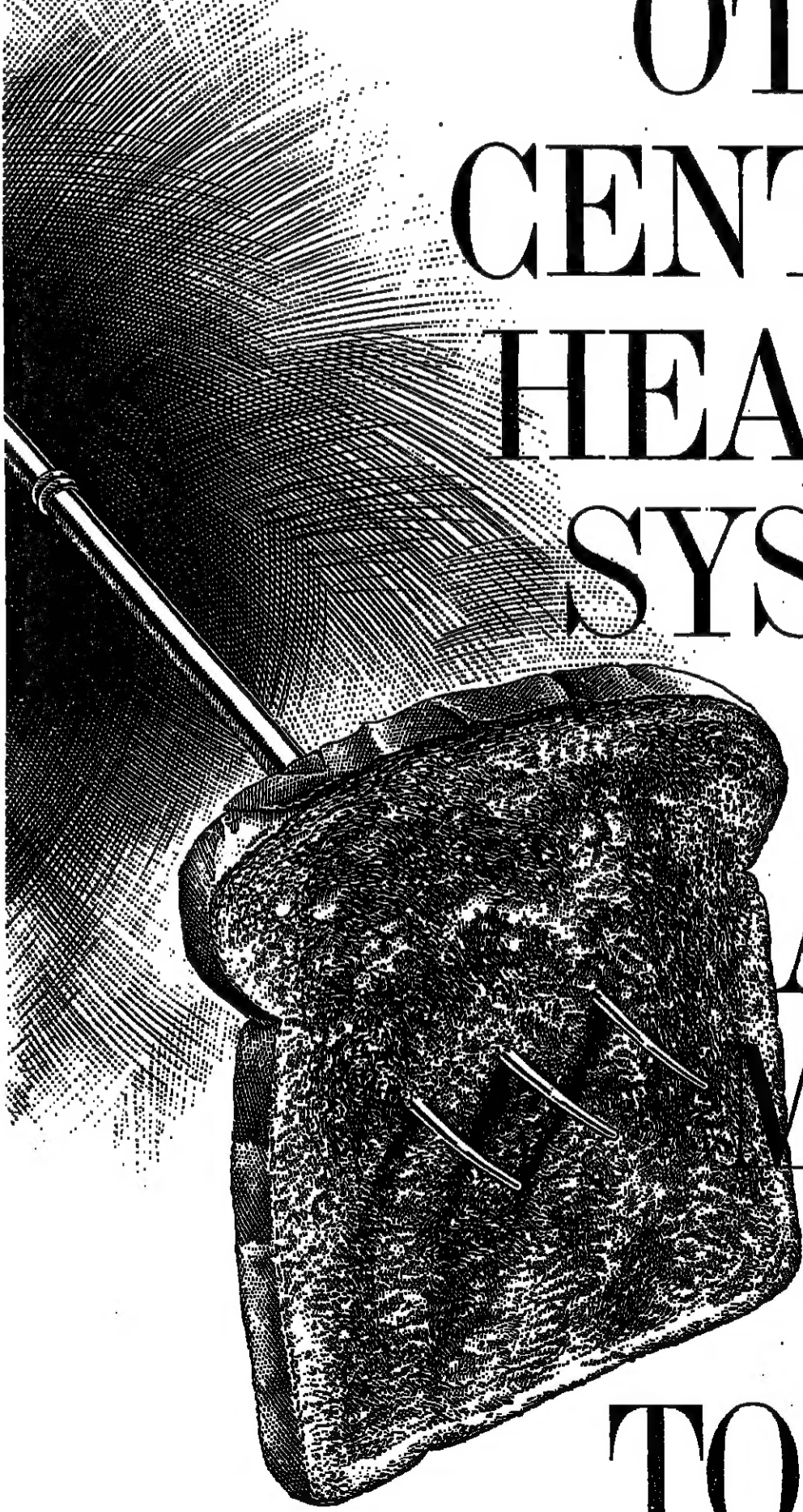
The Poles decided some years ago to do it with mirrors. Multiple candidates were put forward for local councils and parliamentary elections, but it delegates to the party congress were chosen more openly, and the Central Committee and Politburo were elected by secret ballot.

In Bulgaria, the leadership is proving more deft at economic reorganization, but it also senses trouble ahead.

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Last September all Solidarity prisoners were freed and

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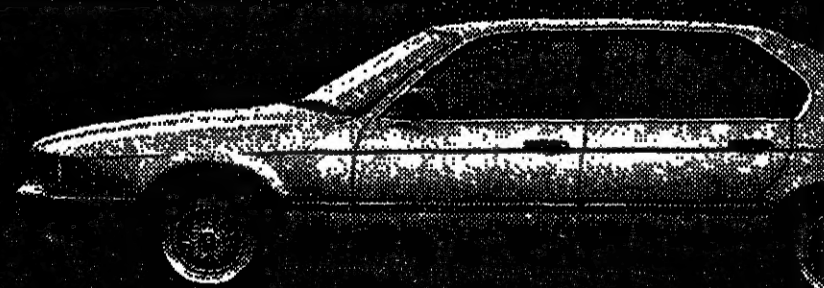
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Spring Festival in China

Whizzbangs in Peking as the Year of the Rabbit leaps in

From Robert Grieves
Peking

The political and economic worries of the past year, not to mention the common cares of everyday life, were cast aside by Peking residents on Wednesday night as they set off cacophonous fireworks welcoming the Chinese lunar new year.

For three days firecrackers, Roman candles and other whizzbangs had been popping off in the city, but at midnight on Wednesday the private fireworks displays reached a deafening crescendo as the Year of the Rabbit began. From the fifteenth floor of a building in the Jianguomenwai compound for foreigners, the city resembled an electronic map covered with sputtering pinpoints of light. The air was heavy with the smell of gunpowder, and firecracker casings littered the city's old hutongs or alleyways.

The Peking train station appeared to be under siege as green and red blossoms of

light opened above it. The outlines of most tall buildings had been trimmed with white light bulbs, colourful flags fluttered from every flagpost, and "double happiness" and "prosperity" posters had been slapped up beside many doorways. "This city looks like Beirut at the height of the

light opened above it. The outlines of most tall buildings had been trimmed with white

Chinese officials estimated that more than a third of China's one billion people would travel by air, rail or bus to be with their families during the holiday. Some workers were allowed three weeks with their families in

Mr Zhao Ziyang, China's Prime Minister and acting General Secretary of the Communist Party, told more than 2,000 party and government officials at Peking's Great Hall of the People yesterday that the anti-bourgeois liberalization campaign is a long-term policy (Robert Grieves writes from Peking).

He reiterated that China would not abandon its commitment to economic reform and said that to succeed, the reform policies needed a stable society and strong leadership that only the Communist Party could provide. Both Mr Hu Yaobang, forced to resign this month as General Secretary, and Mr Deng Xiaoping, China's senior leader, were absent from the meeting.

fighting," an African diplomat remarked.

Earlier in the evening many Chinese families in Peking sat down to tables groaning under the weight of at least 12 dishes, among them *jiaozi* (steamed dumplings stuffed with meat), *nian gao* (sweet cakes) and a variety of fruits, much of it

faraway cities, and national television showed packed trains and bus stations.

At an outdoor fair in Ditan (Earth Temple) Park, children persuaded their parents to buy candied haws on a stick or roast lamb shishkebab.

Puppet shows, stiltwalkers, performing acrobats and cam-

el rides, among other amusements, kept the holiday-makers happy.

Since 1949, when the Communists came to power and renamed the new year celebration the Spring Festival, the annual event has been something of an embarrassment to the central Government, which for years viewed it as a throwback to China's feudal past. But in the late 1980s Chinese officialdom has apparently decided to forget its efforts to stem the tide. Today the Spring Festival is China's most widely observed holiday.

Peking residents spend an average of 40 yuan (roughly £8) each on 400 varieties of fireworks that they can buy from 2,900 stores in the city.

Though politics is never far from any activity in China, it appears to have been kept at bay, at least during the three-day celebration.

None the less, a red banner hanging at the entrance to Ditan Park urged people to remain loyal to socialism and avoid the pitfalls of "bourgeois liberalization".

Islamic Summit Conference

Discussions fail to unite Arab leaders

From A Correspondent
Kuwait

The Islamic Summit Conference yesterday ended four days of talks that gave seniority to Arab issues and announced resolutions that would not further complicate existing problems between conflicting member countries.

On the last day of the first Islamic summit, 21 heads of state and 23 other senior delegates witnessed the tightest security measures ever at an international meeting.

Most non-Arab Muslim delegates who arrived here full of high hopes for financial support from oil-rich countries went home empty-handed as Arab leaders failed to join together in a summit that includes all of them.

On the Iran-Iraq war that was raging just 75 miles away, the conference urged the two "warring" Islamic parties to halt fighting and withdraw to their international borders.

The final communiqué fell short of condemning Iran, who did not attend the sum-



Sheikh Sabah al-Ahmed at the closing session.

mit as it refused to abide by peaceful negotiations.

Sheikh Sabah al-Ahmed, Foreign Minister of Kuwait, announced at the end of the closing session that the seven-member Good Offices Committee established to mediate a settlement to the Gulf war would be expanded to include other senior members.

He said, though, that it would not be dispatched to Tehran as earlier planned —

indicating members had disagreed on that proposal.

With regard to US Navy ships that were sailing northwards in the Gulf, Sheikh al-Ahmed said foreign fleets were in international waters to protect the routing of their countries' commercial ships.

They would not be asked to interfere unless "new things will surface". He reiterated that the security of Kuwait, as well as the whole Gulf area, was threatened by the war next door, but asserted that that was "the responsibility of the UN Security Council".

The summit condemned the two superpowers — the United States for bombing Tripoli last April, and the Soviet Union for interfering militarily in Afghanistan.

It demanded that the United States should pay compensation to Libya and that the Soviet Union should pull out of Afghanistan.

On the thorny issue of establishing diplomatic relations with Israel, the conference communiqué carefully worded a call to countries

"who intended to establish diplomatic ties with the Zionist enemy" — quoting President Assad of Syria's expression — to hold out.

Yet it did not condemn countries who had already had such ties with Israel, saving President Mubarak of Egypt, whose country was readmitted lately to the conference, a big embarrassment.

Despite a handshake between President Mubarak and President Assad on Monday, interpreted by many as a breakthrough in bilateral relations, President Mubarak was excluded from a mini-Arab summit meeting held on Wednesday night between leaders of Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Algeria, Jordan and Syria.

Sources close to the meeting said the Egyptian President was to fly to Abu Dhabi to hold another Arab mini-summit that may result in the resumption of diplomatic relations between Egypt and four Gulf countries that would include Bahrain, Abu Dhabi, Qatar and possibly Kuwait.



Herr Hans Fricke holding a stuffed coelacanth like the ones he saw live in their home waters off the Comoro Islands.

Submarine expedition studies living fossil

Munich (Reuter) — The world's oldest surviving vertebrate, the coelacanth, has been observed for the first time in its natural habitat by scientists working from a two-man submarine deep in the Indian Ocean.

The bony, prehistoric fish, a "living fossil" which originated 350 million years ago and has hardly evolved since, was thought to have been extinct for at least 60 million years until a live specimen was found on a fisherman's line in 1938. But that fish, which soon died, and others since

have ended up stuffed. Now an expedition led by a member of the Max Planck Institute for Animal Behaviour has studied and filmed the species 100 fathoms down off the Comoro Islands.

The expedition leader, Herr Hans Fricke, a marine biologist, described the sightings early this month as the fulfilment of an underwater challenge comparable to the discovery of the wreck of the Titanic. "They are tremendously rare. We travelled many, many miles in a submersible and we found only two."

360 infants die a day in African civil wars

By Paul Vahley

Some 360 small children are dying every day in Mozambique and Angola as a result of civil wars in which South African-backed rebels are attempting to bring the local economy to its knees, according to a United Nations report published in London yesterday.

The rates of infant mortality there are now the highest in the world, more than double those in Ethiopia. In the past two years more than one in three children have died before reaching the age of five.

If the situation is allowed to continue unchecked, then 50 per cent of the one million children born in the two countries in 1986 will be dead or crippled for life by the time they reach the age of five, Mr James Grant, the executive director of the United Nations children's fund, Unicef, said at a press conference to launch *Children on the Front Line* yesterday.

The "very discouraging" document, which is unusually hard-hitting for a Unicef document, was an internal report, but its revelations were so alarming that Unicef had decided to make it public, he said.

Unicef says that its mandate from the UN is not to probe the causes but to document the consequences. But the report is direct in its criticism of the tactics of the South African-backed guerrillas who, in Mozambique alone, have destroyed 40 per cent of all primary schools and 718 clinics, depriving more than two million people of even the most basic health care.

It has made refugees of nine million farmers who have fled to the safety of shanty towns and camps in the region's cities. It has destroyed oil pipelines and railways massively increasing the transport costs of other handlocked frontline states like Zimbabwe, Zambia and Malawi and rendering harvests of maize and sugar uneconomic.

Mr Grant said: "One of the deadliest weapons of the war is the mass terrorism carried out by forces which have burned crops and farmhouses, pillaged and destroyed schools, clinics, churches, mosques, stores and villages, poisoned wells by throwing bodies down them and attacked the transport system."

Professors Cameron, head of London University's forensic medicine department, agreed that forensic medicine often was a speculative and imprecise science.

He repeated his assertion, made at the trial, that he found what he believed were human hand impressions in bloodstains on the jumpsuit.

One impression, over the left shoulder-blade, appeared to be that of a young adult hand. Another, around the back of the right shoulder, was possibly four fingers of a left hand, he said.

Dingo film dismissed by Crown as absurd

From Tony Duboulin
Melbourne

An amateur video showing human hands simulating the action of a dog taking a baby from a jumpsuit and leaving it intact was shown to the Chamberlain inquiry in Sydney yesterday.

The film, described by Mr Michael Adams, junior counsel assisting Mr Ian Barker QC, appearing for the Crown, as "absurd and irrelevant", lasted only a few minutes.

Mr Kenneth Chapman, the man who made the film, said it showed how easily a child could be taken from a jumpsuit without "damaging" it. Mr Chapman, who holds a Bachelor of Science degree from London University, told the inquiry he made the video a year ago.

The Chamberlain inquiry was set up by the Northern Territory and federal governments last year after Mrs Lindy Chamberlain was freed from Darwin jail after serving more than three years of a life sentence for the murder of her baby daughter, Azaria, at Ayers Rock in August 1980. She maintained that the child was taken by a dingo.

On Wednesday Professor James Cameron, a British pathologist, defended his evidence given at Mrs Chamberlain's trial. He said tests he carried out indicated that Azaria Chamberlain's throat had been cut with a sharp instrument.

This was shown by pooling of blood at the back of the jumpsuit the child had been wearing at the time of her disappearance, which was found seven days later.

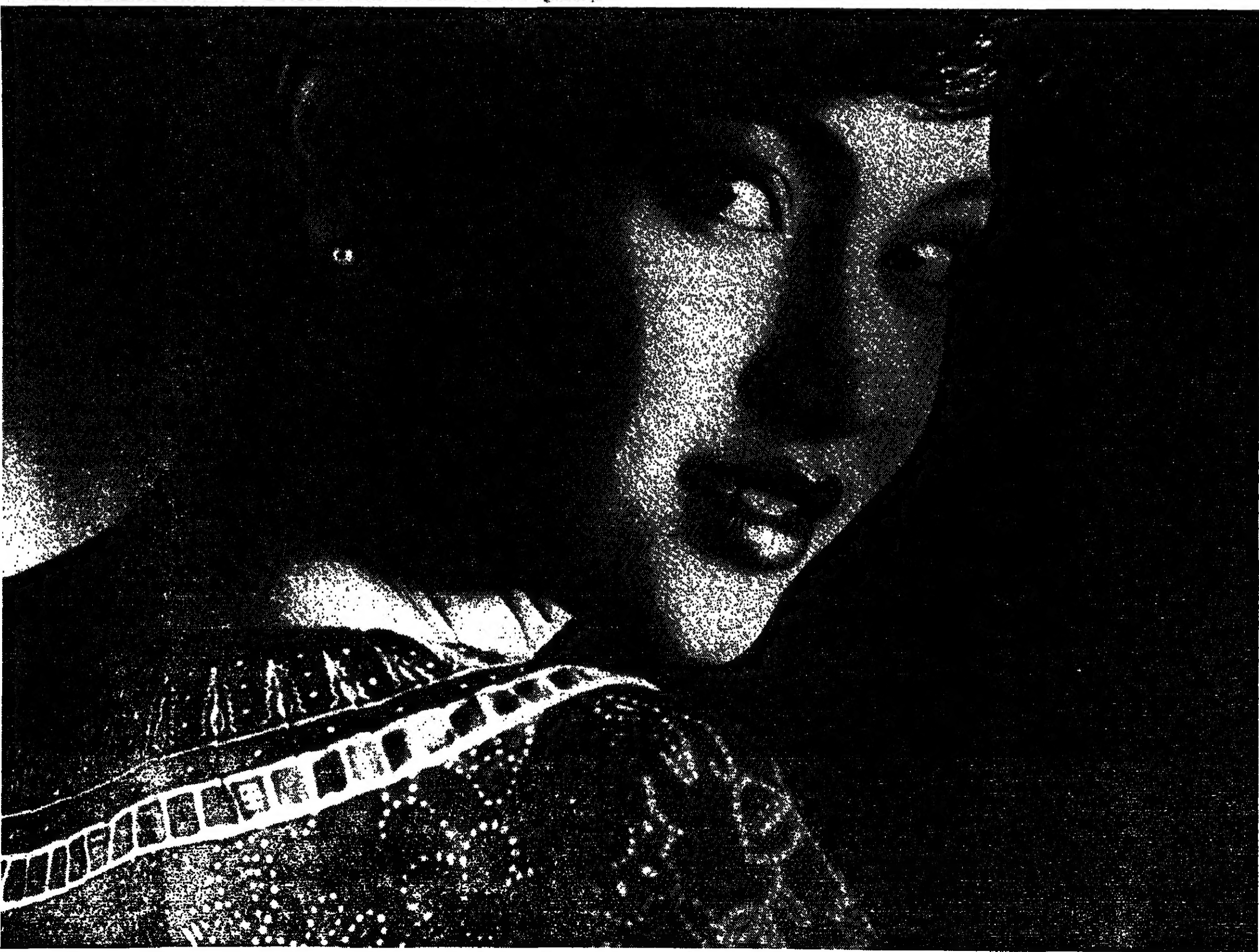
He said his tests, using ultra-violet fluorescent techniques, also indicated that Azaria was upright for a while and then lying down.

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THE ARTS

Dossing downers

Anyone who has been down and out in London knows how painfully honest the metropolis looks from down there — what a naked lunch it all is. For the unfortunates featured in *This Week* (Thames), London was honestly and painfully freezing. Rounded up from their cardboard igloos by jolly Sloane angels of mercy, the indigent of Westminster passed the worst nights of the recent chill beneath Wren's opulent tunnel-vault at St James's, Piccadilly. This gave the newspapers some good pictures.

Sticking-plasters are useless against cancer, and neither can well-meaning reports such as this do justice to the

TELEVISION

lobotomizing tedium of the dossing life, or to the mad logic of the welfare substructure. The former sparks who lives under an arch in Regent's Park; the young panhandler of Victoria Station; the 19-year-old girl who had been told that London was "such a nice city"; they cannot get a leg-up in the world until they have got a leg-up in the world.

Mrs Edwinna Currie, wearing for the occasion what appeared to be a stained-glass window, seemed to think most of them are better off where they are. Health ministers do not generally have first-hand experience of homelessness, and here — as in other areas of government — the gulf of perception is visibly widening. *40 Minutes* (BBC2) followed the efforts of a group of young Blacks from Harlesden, west London, to improve their collective lot. When finally ready, the result will be a handsomely appointed community centre where "the people" may congregate and re-create, safe from the snares of street-corner conflagrations.

This warped into a story of frustration, punctured idealism and melting funds. Linton Kwesi Johnson's sporadic voice-over underlined the fact that not only do young Blacks have no real place in society, they scarcely have a vocabulary.

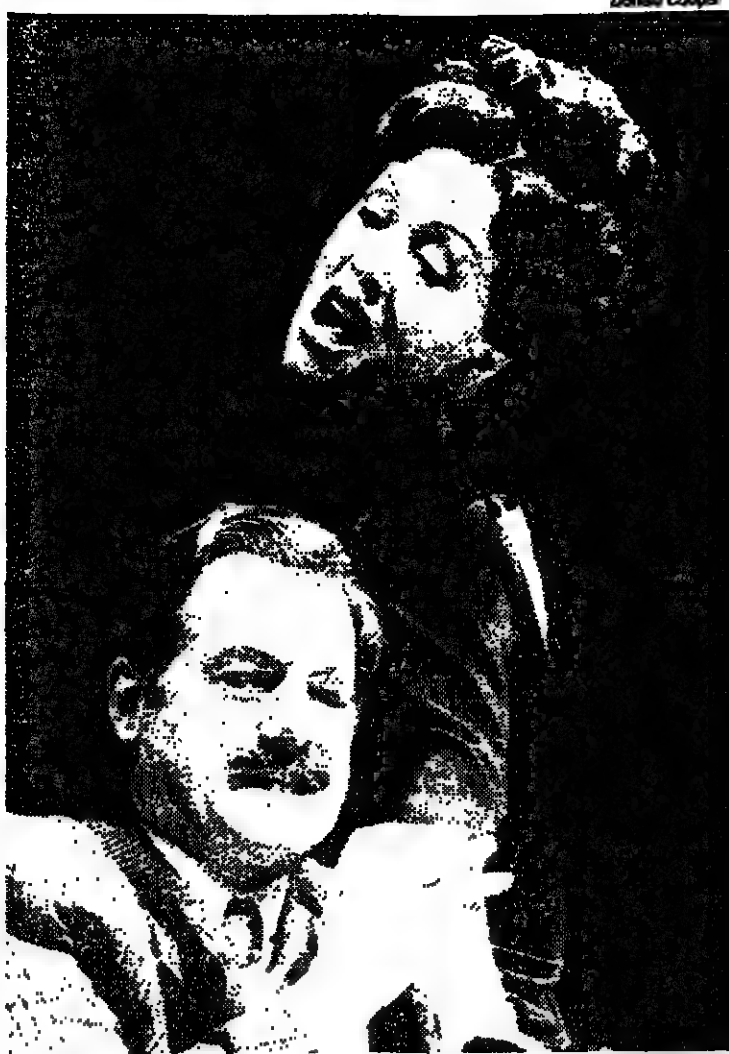
Martin Cropper

Once again, in this Royal Philharmonic Society concert, the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra demonstrated that when in the charge of Simon Rattle it is, by some distance, the most fervently committed orchestra in Britain. It is also probably the most thoroughly rehearsed, for Wednesday's performance of Mahler's Sixth Symphony, although not notable for playing of consistent pinpoint accuracy (who needs that anyway?), was remarkable for scrupulous attention to matters of balance and tempo, matters which other conductors, for want of adequate preparation time, frequently choose to skip over.

The results were salutary, the abundant violence, darkness and terror in this score conveyed all the more vividly. Rattle opted to place the Andante second rather than third, which goes against the views of most conductors

Though founded in 1971, the New Budapest String Quartet has recently replaced two of its members, and this was its first London concert in its present formation. The first violin is very much the leader — only in the broad lines of Kodaly was the cellist allowed to venture forth at all — and the other members aim at forging an homogeneous sound rather than offering their own spontaneous ideas.

The reading of Mendelssohn's final quartet, a disquieting work written under the shadow of his beloved sister's premature death, was stylistically somewhat anomalous and bland. In Schubert's "Death and the Maiden" the worthy Hungarians went all for lucid textures rather than



Neil Howlett's well-rounded Scarpia with Josephine Barstow's Tosca

More Wilson at the Bush

Snoo Wilson's latest play, *More Light*, opens at the Bush Theatre on February 16 (with previews from February 11), directed by Simon Stokes and the author. The play, Wilson's ninth in 10 years at the Bush, is based on the life of the 16th-century philosopher, physicist and author Giordano Bruno.

Elizabeth Bowen's *The Heat of the Day*, in the first stage adaptation ever made of her work, is to be presented by the Shared Experience company, touring England in February and March before opening at the Donmar Warehouse in London on April 7.

Brenda Bruce stars in two one-woman plays by Arnold Wesker, *Yardsale* and *What-ever Happened to Betty Lemon*, opening at the Lyric Studio, Hammersmith on February 17 (with previews from February 12).

CONCERT

CBSO/Rattle Festival Hall/Radio 3

these days (Mahler himself seems to have been undecided). Thus respite came after the threatening turbulence of the first movement. But that in turn allowed the balance of the first movement. But that in turn allowed the balance of the first movement.

The players gave their all, treating the work almost as a gigantic concerto. The trumpets shrieked their earth-shattering top notes with particularly impressive force, while the CBSO's strings certainly knew their way around

conveying the creative impulse behind the notes. The saving grace of the Armenian-born pianist Arthur Papazian's recital was his advocacy of A. Deliaian's Sonata *Dedication to Komitas* (1982), which utilizes less familiar facets of the piano, such as glissandi strummed directly on the strings. The piece is a tribute to a great Armenian patriot, and in its eerie mood of lamentation is

quite unlike any other work I have heard. Unfortunately, when it came to Mozart and Beethoven, Papazian, because of a lack of individual ideas, masked his inadequacy by "touching up" the classics with interpretative gestures. There was also some bad technical articulation at the opening of Chopin's "Funeral March" Sonata.

The soprano Susan Lawrence has a pleasant timbre, especially in the higher notes, but very poor enunciation, so that the words of Walton's Three Sitwell Songs were virtually incomprehensible.

Day three of the ICA's "Dotted Line" series of presentations, featuring promising groups without a major recording contract, was an intriguing and entertaining affair that culminated with the arrival on stage of a surly-looking man sporting a tuffy haircut, tattered jeans and a grubby "Surf's Up" T-shirt. This individual and a beatbox called Max comprise the present line-up of the Dave Howard Singers, a Canadian "group" who started in Toronto in 1982.

Having booted Max into an urgent galloping beat, which the machine played at a ferociously high volume, Howard proceeded to bash the living daylight out of an already battered, overloaded

Just a solitary passion

This one-woman play on the case of the Kerry babies gets off to a rollicking Irish start with a programme note explaining that "whilst the facts remain unaltered, the play is a fictitious account of the story". What this seems to mean is that while the authors and the actress (Folly Teale and Carole Pluckrose) have done their homework — even to the extent of trekking out to Kerry and interviewing the beleaguered Hayes family — their aim is to use the material as a springboard for making their own statement on the plight of women in rural Ireland. Thus, while the setting and main events remain unaltered, the names of the people have been changed.

Whatever the explanation, the piece itself eliminates more than it adds to the subject. Prurient interest apart, the case gripped public

the piece and the woodland responded convincingly to Mahler's precise, if sometimes odd-seeming, demands. There were only two hammer-blows (Mahler fought shy of the fateful third he originally wrote), but the percussion solved the problem of achieving the right sound perfectly with a thud on what looked like a tamped cover executed simultaneously with the slamming of a section of riser on the platform.

The contrast offered by Sibelius's Sixth Symphony, a generous preface to the Mahler, was extreme to say the least. The work was given an elegantly shaped performance, as befits its almost pastoral nature, and it came across as a piece of the undoubted substance it is. But rather sadly in the end, the Mahler had the effect of beating it rudely out of sight.

Stephen Pettitt

Simon Rattle: opting to play Mahler's Scherzo third and thus whipping up sustained frenzy through to the finish

Jonny Harrison's *Paroles héritées*, a highly imaginative series of settings based on scripts associated with the mystery of Rennes-le-Château and Pere Saunière's possible dabbling with a gory distortion of Christianity, lent that part of the evening a marvelously sinister air, and Miss Lawrence abandoned her ladylike decorum, spewing forth the damned irreverencies with a surprising vigour.

Her quiet and caressing way with Poulenc brought us back to gentility, but things were not wholly tidy, and the pronunciation was still bad.

James Methuen-Campbell

ACE Tone organ, strapped somewhat incongruously to a wheelchair. As lights flashed from the back in stroboscopic patterns, Howard pushed the organ around the stage, hammering the keyboard with a fury that it used to take Keith Emerson a couple of hours to work up. This song was called "Nothing to Say", a message which Howard bawled at the top of his lungs.

The effect was both comical and like a slap in the face as Howard dived back to revive a spirit not often experienced since the first heavy groups of the pre-production-rock Sixties turned their amps up to see how loud they would go and discovered the physical uplift of bathing in densely packed sound-waves.

I was rather impressed by all this, but as Max sent out volleys like cannon-shots, while the raving Howard clambered on top of the instrument, taking the volume to dizzying-inducing levels, the crowd thinned perceptibly.

David Sinclair

THEATRE

Fallen Drill Hall

Imagination because it disclosed so much more than the mystery of the dead baby found at Cahirciveen. It uncovered a world of ancient superstition and official bungling, and the tradition of sexual neglect apparently unaltered in the 200 years since Bryan Merriman wrote *The Midnight Court*.

In *Fallen* all this is reduced to the lonely passion of one woman from her brutal sexual initiation, and subsequent affair with a married man, to her interrogation and forced confession after the discovery of the dead child on the beach became confused, by police, with the fact she had hidden

the body of the child she had been carrying when it was born dead.

The piece is written with a strong feeling for the blinkered limits of the environment, where turf-cutting and moving statues of the Virgin combine with the Tralee Sports Centre and the back row of the cinema. The same goes for Miss Pluckrose's performance, in which, as a child, playing solitary games or as a wounded mistress rejected by her lover at a Christmas dance, she transmits the sense of thwarted emotion gathering force and exploding into ugly rages and sheer pain.

What neither the nor the text accomplish is to clarify the events, or to establish the character as a particular person rather than as a suffering archetype.

Irving Wardle

Gloomy clown

Hancock's Finest Hour Boulevard

When laughing at Tony Hancock being a radio ham or a blood-donor, we do well to remember that the words for these immortal chronicles were written by someone else. By Galton and Simpson, in fact. Eventually Hancock pushed away all co-actors and scriptwriters, determined to succeed on something called his own. As it is, let us say, Olivier, having made his mark as Hamlet and Oedipus, decided to go it alone without all these people writing his lines.

Hancock longed to be acclaimed as a serious actor, and apparently nobody convinced him that is what he was, all the time. Something within him responded to the unique character created by his writers and he invested it with his extraordinary vocal resources of sulk, pathos and boast.

He resented this figure he had helped to create, but if Colin Bennett's play has its facts right, the only difference between the actor in the dressing-room and the person in front of the cameras was that the latter stayed sober. The play begins in a dressing-room at Television Centre just before his *Face to Face* interview with John Freeman. The stage is in darkness, the door opens and there is the unmistakable silhouette — coat with astrakhan collar, shapely hat. On go the lights and the figure is not exactly the Lad himself, but Jim McManus is physically close enough to give a convincing, not to say eerie, authenticity to much of what follows.

Mixing expressions of pain, old vaudeville gags and the familiar line of self-deprecating joke, the play darts interestingly enough through his climb and fall. A make-up girl (Ann Penfold) also plays the woman in his life, and Alec Bregonzi, too benignly, plays a dresser and the men, McManus's recreation of his dolorous hero manages, like Hancock, to turn gloom into laughter. The lop-sided smile, beetling brows and certain inflections of famous phrases are remarkably like the original and, while the show provides no point of view, and the second half needs cutting, devotees of the Hancock cult will find something to divert them.

Jeremy Kingston

Entertainments are on page 12

A lop-sided view of Puccini

OPERA

Tosca Coliseum

church of Sant'Andrea della Valle, the Palazzo Farnese and the Castel Sant'Angelo. Worse still, it makes for a staging of quite uncharacteristic clumsiness, from Scarpia's muffled entrance to Tosca's improbable final leap through a cracked window-pane which would probably have given her no more than a bloody wrist.

In his flight from period costume, and in an effort to evoke the torture-chambers that remain within living memory, Dr Miller has turned Puccini's melodrama, in which passions and blood run both high and fast, into a shabby staging goes right against the music. The grossest example, as Paul Griffiths pointed out from Florence, is at the beginning of Act III where Puccini's dawn — a false one, as it transpires, for Tosca and Cavaradossi, but one of the composer's most masterly pieces of scene-painting — is accompanied by a squaddie having a quick drag at the top of the set.

Some of the Florentines complained that the production was

anti-Christian. It is more accurate to say that it has drained the story of the essential Christian elements in the libretto of Illica and Giacosa. Tosca's scruples about flirting with Cavaradossi before the Madonna go for nothing. Scarpia, whose piety is also beyond question ("Tosca, mi fai dimenticare Iddio"), hardly bothers to join in the Te Deum apart from a few perfunctory signs of the cross.

Despite all the obstacles, the musical side of affairs is much better. The most rounded portrayal on stage is Neil Howlett's Scarpia, an Apparatchik (Grade One) prospering in the war and wearing his neatly-cut suits with class. But even here Dr Miller cannot leave well alone and has Scarpia virtually licking Tosca's boots before "Vissi d'arte", with the implication that he who hands out punishment is not averse to a little of the same.

Howlett's baritone sounds in marvellously secure shape in this role, clear and admirably focused. Eduardo Alvarez's Cavaradossi was a game performance in every sense of the adjective. He cut his face and mouth during a rehearsal of the Execution Scene — Tosca's instruction "Now fall correctly" brought an unkind titter on the opening night — but sang in heroic style.

something after the manner of Kenneth Collins, as though nothing had occurred. Just one or two crudities need to be cleaned up, including the response of "I dunno" to Scarpia's question on the whereabouts of Annetotti.

Josephine Barstow, a Tosca of considerable experience, as Richard Morrison pointed out here on Wednesday, was not always at ease in her interpretation. A silly hat with a feather in it during Act I made her look more like Celia Johnson being gallant in a wartime movie than the required opera diva. Assurance came back in Act II together with the old impassioned singing, although "Vissi d'arte" went less than well. The interpretation is still finding its way.

The same applies to Jim Latham-Koenig in the pit, who conducted efficiently but "without much surrender to the passions and colours of this score, which is now beginning to get the admiration in the highest places that it deserves. But it all comes back to Dr Miller. By turns he delights as (*Rigoletto*, *The Mikado*) and infuriates. In this instance he has turned agent provocateur, which is rather less appropriate than it may sound in this improbable police-state Tosca he has created.

John Higgins

Challenge from Wales

CINEMA

Boy Soldier (15) Metro

Escalier C (15) Cannon Première; Swiss Centre; Cannon Baker Street

The Keep (18) ICA Cinematheque

While Channel 4 has remastered British production as a whole, Channel 4 Wales (S4C) has succeeded in establishing an authentic Welsh-language cinema. Stephen Bayly's *Coming Up Roses* (*Rhosyn a rhudd*), which opens in London in March, and Karl Francis's *Boy Soldier* (*Milwr Bychan*) have auspiciously launched this new national cinema at the international festivals, with *Boy Soldier* picking up several awards at Mannheim.

Francis has deployed a tiny budget to make a visually impressive and powerful film, successfully sustaining a complex flashback structure which tracks the memories and reflections of the main character. The story is not new (cf. *Breaker Morant*): a soldier must be made a scapegoat to save the army's reputation. In this case Wil (Richard Lynch), a young Welsh soldier serving in Northern Ireland, is charged with murder after shooting a civilian in a scuffle.

Francis uses the story for a broader examination of disturbing contemporary issues. Claiming that all the events described are closely based on actual cases, he questions the autonomy that every army arrogates to itself, and which can cover up a lot of abuses of individual rights. Francis asks further what use conventional combat manuals are in the mess of Belfast, where children are guerrillas and at any moment a little old lady may bash your head in with a flat-iron; or what right we have to

Weakening tendency to caricature

demand decisions about right and wrong and life and death from teenage soldiers who can barely cope with the intellectual demands of *The Dandy*. "I'm a poor Welshman who could only find work in the Army", Wil tells us. "I come from a poor nation — a nation the English will never understand." He comes to feel that, as a member of this nation, he is closer to the Micks, the official enemy, than to the Brits who only get angry when they hear him using his own incomprehensible language.

The weakness of the film is a tendency to caricature these Brits. Bernard Hill's Home Office man would have been quite sinister enough without dark glasses and cucumber sandwiches. The overriding strength of the film however is Lynch's performance. A plain, plebeian lad with crumpled teeth but good eyes, his Wil is a mixture of innocence, defiance, religious fervour instilled by the Salvation Army, williness and a fearful emotionalism that is always near the surface. He has wise instincts, but never appears too clever to be the real thing. "I didn't do anything I wasn't paid to do", he protests; and, for all the injustice and his dishonourable discharge, he ends up still loyal to the Army, the only home and family he has known. It is a good, angry, deeply-felt film to launch a national cinema.

Jean-Charles Tacchella's Escalier C was the French



Richard Lynch's Wil, the overriding strength of *Boy Soldier*

box-office hit of 1985 and won the Prix de l'Académie Française as the best film of that year — which proves once more the rewards due to staying within well-tried traditions and not making excessive demands upon the audience. The setting is one of those rooming-house communities that sheltered scores of low-budget studio productions in Britain and France in the Thirties; the anecdote, the taming of a grouch, is the most venerable of all dramatic themes.

The film is adapted from a first novel by the 27-year-old Elvire Murrell, who collaborated on the script. Originally it was set in Manhattan but Tacchella has brought it costily home to Paris. Staircase C houses an assorted group of commonplace failures — a homosexual fashion artist, a secretary who is forever quarrelling with her lover, an unpublished writer, a divorcee ruled by her bossy infant daughter, a philosophic drunk and a lonely old lady who feeds the neighbourhood cats.

The central figure is an art critic (Robin Renucci), the kind of rude, arrogant, opinionated, humourless pseudo-intellectual that proliferates in Paris. He is warily amused by the homosexual's admission of love, alarmed when the divorcee's child tries to claim him as her father, challenged by a love-hate affair with an aggressive young P.R. woman.

The softening-up begun by these human encounters on Staircase C is completed when the lonely old lady commits suicide, arousing a latent guilt in the hard heart. Just to make sure we know the humanizing process is complete, Tacchella shows us the art critic, who has formerly reviled Renoir,

shedding a silent tear or two before the artist's *Little Girl with Watering Can*.

Calculated sentimentality, albeit dissembled by a veneer of smart Parisian dialogue, is the method and the underlying attraction of this uncomplicated film. The Keep is a sad instance of frustrated ambition. Michael Mann adapted it from an ingenious and essentially visual horror novel by F. Paul Wilson, in which Nazi troops in the Romanian Carpathians in 1941 are confronted by a creature of supernatural evil, imprisoned in the eerie fortress which they have incautiously commandeered as their HQ.

Mann, from his own account, was interested in the philosophical notion of the confrontation of two alternative forms of evil, as well as the connection he perceived between Romanticism and Fascism. The film is full of references, visual and literary, to the German Expressionist cinema of Murnau and Lang, of *Caligari*, *Nosferatu* and *Destiny*. John Box's production design, favouring the monochrome and chiaroscuro of that cinema, is consistently fine to watch.

Clearly, though, the film was hurried into production without a finished script; and post-production cutting has left it even more ragged and full of inexplicable action. Other troubles, like the death of the special-effects wizard Wally Veevers in mid-production, cannot have helped. The result is a pointless, patched-up and fairly incomprehensible rigmorale, with enough visual grandeur (it was shot for 70mm) to show what might have been.

David Robinson

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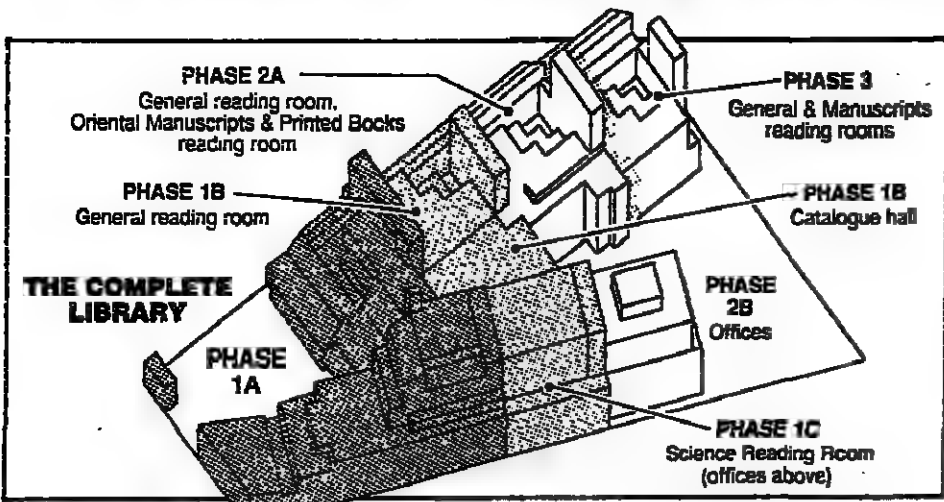


THE NEW BMW 7 SERIES

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SPECTRUM

Miles of aisles, acres of words



Building the new British Library is a project that has almost been buried under the weight of bureaucracy, politics and seemingly endless delays. When the task is finally completed the architect will be 100

The weirdest party of 1986 took place in a circular room 12 feet across. The room was funnel-shaped and the only exit was a vertical shaft rising 36 feet to the lowest basement level of what will, one day, be the British Library. The revellers were 130 feet below ground and surrounded by the Thanet Sands which lie beneath London.

Further party bookings will not be taken, as the room is now full of concrete. It was the shaft for one of the piles which has now been driven into the earth next to St Pancras station. By the year 2020, God and the Public Sector Borrowing Requirement willing, these piles will be supporting 300 shelf-miles of books as well as countless periodicals and manuscripts.

The British Library is one of the biggest public building projects, and certainly the slowest anybody can remember. Architects were appointed in 1962, but not a sod of earth was turned until 1984.

Some books and scholars should be able to move in by 1993, but even the first phase will not be completed until 2000. And the year 2020 is simply thrown in as a suitably round number for when the whole thing might be finished. Nobody really knows.

Totting up costs over such a period requires an Isaac Asimov-type brain. But, the first fractions of the first phase are expected to cost between £150 million and £200 million.

If this were France, it has been wryly observed, then *la Bibliothèque Thatcheuse* would be a rush job, designed to be completed by the next election — in time to enhance *la gloire* of this administration. But this is not France, so public money will be dripped gradually into the project while conservationists, lovers of the old British Library Reading Room and every other eccentric who emerges over the next 30 years or so, will try to stop the project.

The reason why it should go ahead is simply that the British Library is, along with the Bibliothèque Nationale in Paris and the Library of Congress in Washington, one of the greatest repositories of human wisdom in the world. It is currently scattered over

19 inappropriate sites around London.

Protection of the stock is not as good as it ought to be and it will grow worse as the relentless addition of four shelf-miles worth of books a year continues.

The old, domed Reading Room in the British Museum is not threatened in any way — the Museum will simply have to find another use for it.

Colin St John "Sandy" Wilson, the architect, will nod eagerly at these arguments but, after 24 years on the job, he is not inclined to lose his head. He knows that mere reason ceased long ago to have any relevance in this project. When he was appointed it was specifically because it was felt that a young man was needed as it was certain to be a long haul. Wilson is now 64 and will be nearly 100 if and when the building is completed in 2020.

In the simple Sixties the idea was that the library should be built next to the British Museum in Bloomsbury. The area in front of

Smirke's massive columns would be opened out by demolishing the terraces. The square thus formed would house the library as well as Hawksmoor's church of St George. Unlike many Sixties extravaganzas, this scheme appeared to make sense — except for one brief period around 1965 when it may have included knocking down the church. Then the conservation movement struck and Bloomsbury as a whole was one of its primary targets. The terraces were saved and the

library had to look elsewhere. In the Seventies the project took on a new complexity. The Bloomsbury scheme had been intended simply to house the humanities library. But now the British Library was born, combining all the additional scientific material in one administrative structure. A building twice as big was required and, eventually, the old goods yards by St Pancras station were slighted upon.

This site was at least big — 9½ acres. But there were new problems. First, Wilson could

not build too high — Camden Council did not want the magnificent arch and High Victorian Gothic of St Pancras dwarfed.

Secondly, the size of the project and its marginal hold on the conscience of the public purse — there are few votes in books — meant that money would not flow into it. So the new building had to be carefully phased so that completed parts could be used without fatal interference from continuing building work. And finally there was the sheer complexity of fitting in the various functions — the design brief ran to 8,500 points.

Wilson's solution is an admirable brick and tile building, forming a sloping roofscape almost concealed from the Euston Road by its narrow frontage and general modesty of effect. The only grand gesture is the main entrance hall, with its procession of curving ceilings. But even this is concealed in the apex of the two wings — housing on one side science and, on the other, humanities. The completed building will have two million square feet of floorspace — twice the size of Harrods.

Individual phases are isolated by service cores, allowing them to be completely walled off. The Phase One complex will form, in effect, a finished building — Wilson gloomily expects there to be a pretty severe hiatus after 2000.

None of that stops him leaping about the site in hard hat and wellingtons, attempting to dramatize the final creation which will arise from the jagged concrete skeleton which has so far been built. However, it is only below ground that the real scale of his task becomes apparent.

Climbing down a series of concrete staircases, he had a springy wooden ladder, we leave daylight behind and enter these vast modern catacombs, fragrant with the smell of drying concrete and echoing with the roar of machinery.

The basements are so big and gloomy that you cannot see their full extent from any one point. The earth pressure on the perimeter retaining wall had to be built, followed quickly by the top basement level to stop it caving in. The rest of the basement had then

to be constructed downwards, resulting in the uncanny spectacle when you reach the bottom of huge diggers crawling through sloping mounds of earth, their headlights cutting through the damp gloom. It is like a science fiction vision of a post-holocaust world.

The retaining wall itself consists of interlocking columns on which the boring tool has left a vertical zig-zag pattern reminiscent of Romanesque decoration. The whole thing looks like a wild parody of Durham Cathedral constructed by Thomas.

Wilson speaks with *Boy's Own* enthusiasm of the technology required to support the immense weight of books.

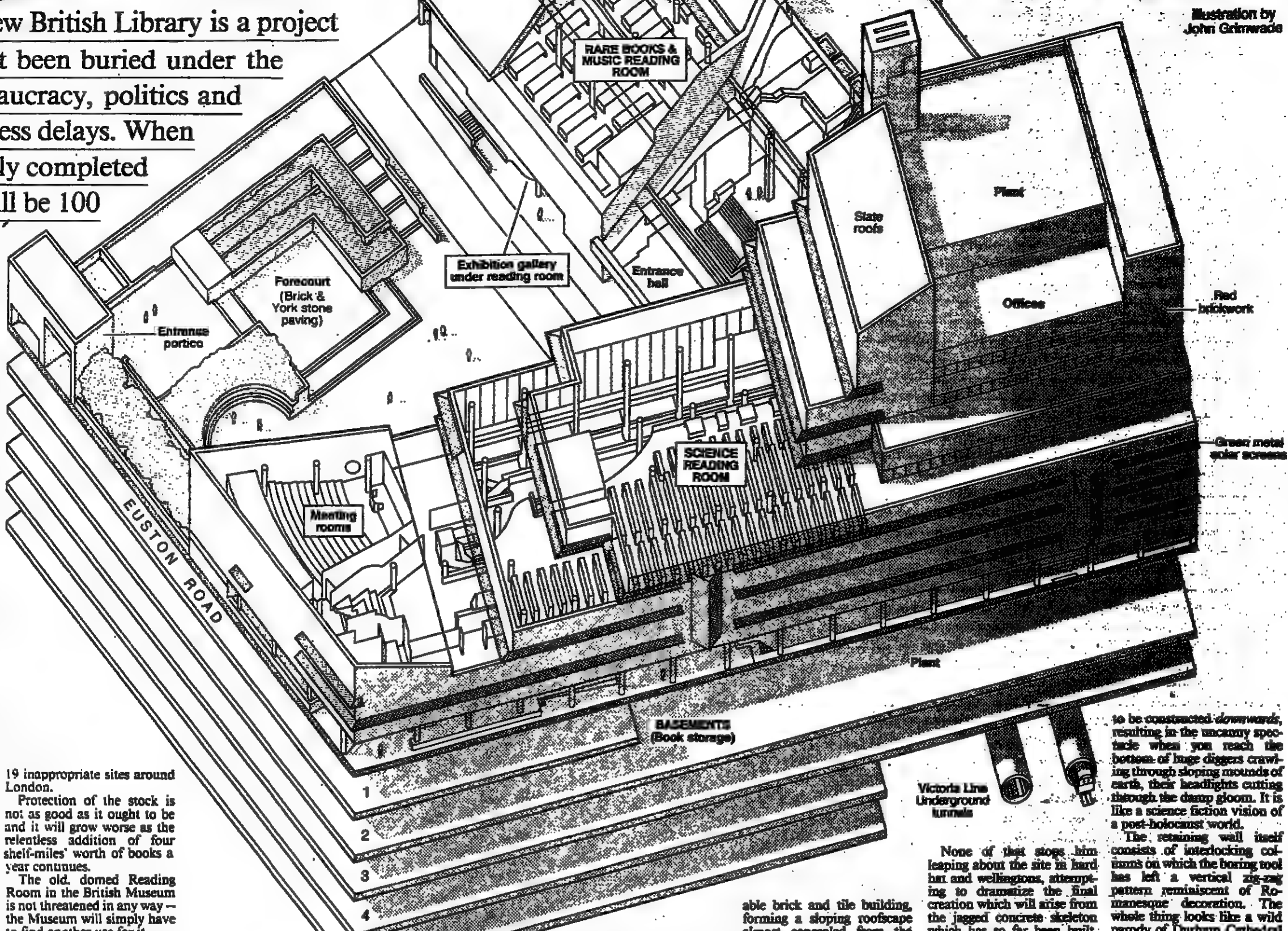
He has other buildings on the go and is Professor of Architecture at Cambridge. But it's clear that the British Library is the one that really counts. His conversation is peppered with the names of the architects who influenced the library's design — Ashpitel, Wright, Berge — and even the project's bureaucracy and politics seem to give him a curious delight.

Bryan Appleyard

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Illustration by John Grimwade



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Bryan Appleyard

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Some southern comfort in the Scottish style

Today a private member's bill seeks to extend pub hours. Alan Hamilton reports on the Scottish experience of all-day opening

Time was when Edinburgh festival-goers, dejected from their concerts after 10pm, found to their dismay that the city's hostilities were already barred and shuttered, and they swore that next year they would forsake this grim Calvinist capital for the more liberalised ambience of Salzburg.

Two sounds now fill the crisp Edinburgh air: the unclinking of some pub doors at 6am, often to remain unbolled until 3 the following morning, and the curious whirling noise of John Knox spinning in his grave by St Giles' Cathedral.

More than 10 years have passed since the government reformed Scotland's oppressive liquor licensing laws. The 1976 Licensing Scotland Act extended opening hours from 10 until 11pm, but licensing boards were given discretion to allow additional extensions "according to local need". In many places this has come to mean that pubs are open from 7am until 3am the following day. More commonly, pubs stay open from 11 in the morning until 11 at night. All-day opening on Sundays requires a special permit from a licensing board. The Scottish Office has issued a consultative document seeking the views of publicans on whether they favour more relaxations of the rules about extended drinking hours.

Today Mr Allan Stewart's private member's bill, which

has broad government support, seeks to introduce all-day opening in pubs south of the border, with a proposal that publicans should apply to magistrates for permission to open for up to 12 hours a day.

In Scotland's decade of liberalization, many of the evils associated with alcohol have not increased. Drink driving offences over the 10 years, for example, have remained static at about 15,000 per year. Senior police officers are generally satisfied with the workings of the 1976 Act, and believe that, while it has not led to a reduction in consumption, it has killed off the "10 o'clock swill" — a major source of disturbance and police activity. Mr Hugh Watson, assistant chief constable of the Lothians and Borders Police, said: "The 1976 Act has certainly not added to the problems of policing. The fact

that we have not sought to amend the legislation must indicate a degree of satisfaction with it."

All evidence on drinking patterns is deeply coloured by the depressed Scottish economy, and opponents of further liberalization believe that the situation is artificially held in check simply because the Scots cannot afford to drink as often as they would wish. Scots now spend less per head on drink than do the English.

Two years ago a survey by the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys showed that while Scottish men were drinking much the same amount as 10 years ago, consumption by women had increased by one third. Off-licence outlets have increased by 13 per cent in the last six years.

Mr Douglas Allison, executive director of the Scottish

Connect on Alcohol, points out a 34 per cent increase in Scottish deaths from cirrhosis of the liver in the past decade, compared with a 28 per cent increase in England and Wales. He also reports many more women seeking help from clinics; now one woman for every three men admits to an alcohol problem, whereas a decade ago the ratio was one to seven.

Dr Christopher Clayton is the physician who chaired the committee that recommended the changes in the law nearly 15 years ago.

He still believes those changes were necessary and desirable. "By the time a chap has cirrhosis he is drinking so much that he is not going to be influenced by licensing arrangements, and by the time people are bad enough to need mental hospitals, they won't be restrained by conscience or remorse, and certainly not by any licensing law."

The British Medical Association, which generally opposes extended opening hours, believes that the Scottish experience may have had serious effects, particularly in such areas as industrial and domestic accidents, but admits there is virtually no research to substantiate the suspicion.

Others believe that the reforms were good in parts, but openings throughout the after-

noon, and very late at night, are regarded as leading to increased consumption, although evidence is hard to come by. As for the publicans, liberalization has brought no bonanza. More pubs may have opened, but longer hours have meant higher overheads and there has been no great increase in overall trade. One benefit, however, has been that

more pub food is available, as an effort to improve profits. A legal loophole allows garages to sell liquor on Sundays, the catch is that it must be in wholesale quantities, of at least a case of whisky or 24 large beer cans. Probably enough to last even a Celt until that Edinburgh decide-pub opens again at 6am on Monday.

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CONCISE CROSSWORD NO 1169

ACROSS
1 Instruction book (6)
4 Drug addict (6)
7 Cut (4)
8 Marine rider (8)
9 Servile type (7)
11 Line-up (5)
12 Fish stew (13)
15 Tomb (5)
16 Conveyance (7)
20 Relay device (6)
21 Twist (4)
22 Text (3,3)
23 Verberate's digit (6)

DOWN
1 Small taxi (7)
2 Reces (3)
3 French school (5)
4 Doorframe side (4)
5 Dog houses (7)
6 Run off to marry (5)
10 Harbour guide (5)
11 Put down (5)
13 Normally (7)
14 Everlasting (7)
15 Call on (5)
17 Finished (5)
18 Pepper container (6)
19 Run off (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 1168

ACROSS: 1 Mosaic 4 Anzour 9 Roundels 10 Pupils 11 Myths 12 Lassagne 14 Protagonist 16 Felucca 19 Slab 22 Impure 24 Harbours 25 Emerge 26 Client
DOWN: 1 Mart 2 Ritz 3 Synthetic 5 Nap 6 Impure 7 Teller 8 Calligraphy 11 Map 13 Sinistral 15 Receptor 16 Tab 17 Office 20 Agile 21 Brut 23 Tag

THE TIMES

SATURDAY

—Portfolio Gold—

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Splashing along: Stars and Stripes sweeps ahead of her competitor.

Sport stars on screen

Tomorrow on-board cameras, in use for the first time in the America's Cup finals, will transform 12 metre racing into a dramatic television event. Yachtsmen now hope that their sport will become as popular as football, tennis and darts, but they aren't alone in jostling for air time in the fight to become "son of snooker".

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FRIDAY PAGE

Babies keep you in the swim

Having a child can be the making of a sporting champion, contrary to popular myth. John Goodbody on the swimmer who is setting out to show that mothers can be Olympic medallists, too.

Margaret Kelly, a silver medal winner at the 1980 Olympics, will shortly set out to make a dent in a popular myth — that women who have babies might as well forget about anything resembling an athletic career.

Kelly, under her married name of Margaret Hohmann, is attempting to duplicate at swimming what many women track and field athletes have proven: that having a child actually improves athletic performance.

Hohmann, now aged 30, began training this week knowing that there is widespread medical proof and straight statistical evidence to support the belief that the experience of pregnancy strengthens women — and that if she fulfils her ambition of returning to the British team she will be the first mother to do so.

Her decision follows a conversation with Frank Dick, Britain's director of athletics coaching, who this week started helping Boris Becker, the Wimbledon singles champion, in his physical preparation.

Dick told her that the reason more women do not compete successfully after giving birth was "social rather than physical". Yet some of the most famous names in athletics have been mothers at the time of their peak performances, like Fanny Blankers-Koen, who won four gold medals at the 1948 Olympics, and Mary Rand, who took the 1964 Olympic long jump title with a world record.

Joyce Smith had two children during an extraordinary career which included a national cross-country title in 1959, a European bronze medal in 1974 and victory in the 1982 London Marathon at the age of 44.

Ingrid Kristiansen has set world beats over 4,000 metres, 10,000 metres and the marathon since the birth of her son, Valerie Brisco-Hooks ran 11.56 seconds for 100 metres, 23.16 seconds for 200 metres and 52.08 seconds for 400 metres. Then she gave birth to Alvin Hooks Junior and her times



'I feel a bit like a rusty old car which needs oiling'

dropped to 11.01, 21.81 and 48.83, winning her three Olympic gold medals in Los Angeles.

In East Europe the practice is even more widespread. Tatjana Kazankina, of the Soviet Union, won the Olympic 800 metres gold medal in 1976, had a baby in 1978 and returned to retain her Olympic title in 1980. Her compatriot Galina Chistyakova had a baby in 1983 and subsequently added 33 inches to her best long jump, winning last year's European Championships.

But if this has become increasingly common in athletics, Hohmann will be unique in international swimming if she succeeds in competing at the Seoul Olympics. Last weekend she helped her club, Wigan Wasps, to the final of the national women's 200 metres med-

ley team event — having had just one training session since giving birth to her son, Robert, last June.

"I feel a bit like a rusty old car which needs oiling," she says. "I went in with the public for the first session, but I was fine and will be steadily building up the training."

"You've got to have a break from being with the baby all the time. I feel like a sponge at the end of the day and it will make a change doing some training in the evenings. It will do me good."

Keith Bewley, the coach of Wigan Wasps, who will be sending Hohmann training schedules, is convinced she can return to become Britain's top breaststroke swimmer. But Hohmann wants to take her return steadily. "All the training I will be doing will also make me fit enough to have another child. Giving birth to a 10lb 10oz baby, as



My mum's a sport: Margaret Hohmann with her son Robert, flanked by two who made it, Valerie Brisco-Hooks (left) and Fanny Blankers-Koen

change of philosophy. Possibly the fulfilment of motherhood could lead to a quest for similar fulfilment on the sports field."

Professor John Durkin, professor of physiology at Glasgow University, says: "From our studies of pregnant women I can think of no reason why women are better off after having had a baby. There is no reason physiologically for believing a woman athlete would perform better after having a child unless it was due to other factors."

Dr Eric Newsbome, lecturer in biochemistry at Oxford University, says: "The potential benefits of childbirth to an athlete's performance warrant serious study."

Thomson Prentice



'Women who have had babies know how to handle pain'

I did, felt a bit like a competition."

Maurice Yaffe, senior clinical psychologist at Guy's Hospital and an adviser to the British Olympic Association, says that an important motivating factor for older sports-women is that they feel they have fulfilled themselves in a maternal sense. "Older people are perhaps more determined and may also have things in better perspective."

Dr Craig Sharp, an exercise physiologist and co-director of Birmingham Human Motor Performance Laboratory, says that although there has not been any academic study on the subject, the East Germans are convinced women improve athletically after pregnancy.

Dick says that Dr Zaharieva, the Bulgarian team doctor, discovered that all the women she interviewed at the 1984 Olympics thought they were stronger since having children. And Dr Sharp agrees with the theory: "There are three reasons. First, being pregnant is a sort of progressive resistance training. It does strengthen the heart. Pregnancy forces the cardiovascular system to become more efficient to cope with the body's increasing weight. This level of efficiency can be retained after childbirth."

"Second, pregnancy has an anabolic effect on muscle. In a way it is like taking a course of natural anabolic steroids."

"But the last reason is perhaps the most significant. Pregnancy has a psychological effect. Women athletes who have had children say they feel tougher and stronger after the birth. It gives them an extra edge. They can handle the pain of training — after all, labour is well-named."

MEDICAL BRIEFING

Mixtures that kill

Dame Sheila Sherlock, an expert on liver disease and a former professor of medicine, worried an audience of doctors who were attending an Edinburgh conference; she told a story, illustrating the dangers of mixing paracetamol and alcohol, of a doctor's wife who died after taking two tablets of paracetamol every four hours to relieve the pain of a tooth extraction. Although she took the tablets for only three days, she died of acute liver necrosis.

The doctor's wife also drank the equivalent of several glasses of wine a day, without realizing that the alcohol increased the build-up of harmful breakdown products of paracetamol to a point where liver cells were destroyed.

She might have survived if she had been able to buy Parneton, a new paracetamol tablet developed by Sterling Winthrop, which contains a built-in antidote, methionine, which raises the level of glutathione in the liver and protects it from damage. The tablets are not expensive, a hundred cost less than the price of two whiskies.

Paracetamol is not only marketed as Parnadol, but is also found as a constituent of a great many analgesic mixtures bought over the counter at chemists. Heavy drinkers should check the small print on the packet. Sterling Winthrop are, for the time being, reserving available supplies of Parneton for those patients with the greatest risk of having an overdose.

have replaced the barbiturates as sleeping pills or tranquilizers and have a valuable role in the treatment of some forms of epilepsy. Although the manufacturers have been firm in their warnings that they should not be taken by pregnant women, patients can become psychologically dependent on them, occasionally addicted to them, so that there is always a danger of this advice being ignored. It now seems that the general embargo on taking drugs in pregnancy must apply in particular to the benzodiazepines.

A report from Sweden in *The Lancet* last week gave details of seven babies, delivered to mothers who were taking benzodiazepines, who were later found to be suffering from skeletal malformations and damage to the central nervous system. Three of the children were mentally retarded and at post mortem abnormal brain development was noted.

The children who survived birth were found to have abnormal ears, palates and slanting eyes. It seems that it will now be necessary to add questions on benzodiazepines to the customary warning given to women to give up smoking before they become pregnant, to reduce their alcohol intake and to take folic acid and additional vitamins.

Puppy law

Few of the thousands of people who will visit Crufts next month are likely to have read the recent copy of the *British Medical Journal* in which there is a report of the relationship between a severe form of gastroenteritis, campylobacter, in children and the presence of a dog, very often a puppy, in the household.

Doctors and health visitors in Darlington have investigated all the cases which occurred in the town in 1984 and 1985 and found that having a dog in the house increased the chances of developing the disease by a third. Young children are particularly open to infection.

Campylobacter enteritis, which usually follows eating undercooked chicken, causes severe diarrhoea with acute abdominal pain and vomiting. Fortunately, once a diagnosis has been made, treatment is easy as the organism is sensitive to erythromycin, an antibiotic which can be given safely to children.

Prophylaxis is more difficult; the *British Medical Journal* suggests that children should be taught to wash their hands carefully after they have

been playing with their dog; but in another recent survey it was shown that people are constantly touching their mouths, without noticing it, and organisms are very easily transmitted from hand to mouth.

Rats' tales

The days when patients worried about going to the lavatory every day and felt that a laxative was the answer to all their ills are long since past; syrup of figs is no longer handed out as a morning routine in boarding schools, but in old age, when the bowels are failing, a mild aperient is still needed by many patients. Doctors frequently prescribed Dorianex; it was pleasant tasting, it could be given either in pill or liquid form, and it worked without producing gripes.

Nearly half a million British people, who relied upon it to keep them regular, will now have to revert to preparations of senna, for Japanese experiments with rodents have shown that Dorianex gives rise to intestinal and liver tumours. There is no evidence that the constipated elderly have guts which react in the same way as oriental rats, and the carcinogenic effects of Dorianex have never been demonstrated in humans, but even so Rikers, the manufacturers, are taking no chances; after 22 years they are discontinuing its production.

Dr Thomas Stuttford

FIRST PERSON

Jane Hepburn

Messing about

"Have you had your Mandy? They're good, aren't they?" said Mandy's mum, picking up a pair of braces from my stall, an unwanted present from 10 years ago. "John'll wear anything, he will. How much for them braces? 20p?" she exclaimed. "Do you think I'm made of money? I'll give you 10p."

I agreed. Any money was good, known as far as I was concerned for my "year in India" fund, and where better than a car boot sale to earn it? Or so I thought. Little did I realise that car boot sales are now big business, and hardly the place for the likes of me.

I arrived at 8.30am ready for kick-off at 10. I thought a car boot sale meant just that, and duly emptied the contents of my car boot on plastic sheets beside my car. Much to my surprise, who should pull up beside me but half the contents of the local garden centre crammed into a camper van.

"Move those bits and pieces dearie!" shouted a well-built, motherly lady who was hanging out of the window as they negotiated a parking space. She was speaking to me, and I felt somewhat aggrieved at her tone. Bits and pieces indeed!

No sooner had I arrived than a swarm of people pounced on my stall. A particularly officious woman forged through the group and descended on anything remotely "good as new". "How much for these old things?" she asked. But of her and the like I had been forewarned. These were the traders who go from sale to sale before opening time, buying up "bargains" to sell at grossly inflated prices on their own stalls. Not about to be ripped off, I asked for a five. Stunned shock and eyes rolled to heaven followed, and then she marched off in disgust. The crowd soon evaporated when they realised I was not such an easy touch.

My incredulity at the size and variety of stalls grew as traders, caravans and large estate cars paraded into the field, and there emerged, as from a Tardis, rails of clothes, hardware, electrical goods and pots of paint.

I decided not to converse with my neighbours as competition was obviously fierce. I put up my chair and turned to face the sun. If nothing else, I was determined to get a tan. I would not have missed the morning's entertainment for anything. My proceeds were amassing rather slowly, but the information I gleaned from my neighbour's rather rambling conversation with her colleagues was worth its weight in gold. I now knew the cause of her daughter's infertility, why she fed her children on fish fingers, and how to cure nappy rash.

"You know what they say, whatever you dream it's the opposite." Well, I certainly hadn't heard that one before. And so the flow of priceless information continued, interspersed with a running total of my takings, which, it was apparent from the outset, were to outstrip mine considerably. When the crowds had stopped flocking to my stall, I wandered around and discovered to my dismay that I had allowed a "trader" to slip through the net. There, brazenly on another stall, was a mirror I had sold to a little girl who wanted a "present for her mother". A 40p per cent profit — present to be exact!

With half an hour to go, I wondered whether to stay on. The crowds had noticeably thinned, and only the faithful were left to squeeze whatever they could from the latecomers. With five minutes to go I sold a rather expensive oriental bamboo vegetable steamer for 20p to a small boy searching for a container in which to store his toy soldiers, and decided not to tell him what it was really for in case he changed his mind.

Much of my stall was still intact, and I was beginning to wish that I'd let the traders have their way. Half price was better than no price at all. But where was the fun in that, and where else would I have discovered how to wash disposable nappies, treat bee stings and interpret dreams?

Car boot business may not be the quickest way to earn a passage to India, but it is without doubt the most instructive.

The snatcher trap

How international co-operation is closing loopholes in Britain's child abduction laws

An eight-year-old Cypriot boy, seized by his mother and abducted to this country just before Christmas, has been tracked down and returned home to his father after the intervention of the civil servants in the Lord Chancellor's Department. The case is the latest in which — under a new law which came into force last August — two countries have collaborated to combat child kidnapping.

To date, the Lord Chancellor's officials — dubbed "Hailsham's angels" — in their new role in obtaining the return of "up-of-love" victims, have secured the return of five children seized from their homes abroad and brought here by an estranged parent: three from Canada, one from Austria and the little boy from Cyprus.

At the same time the officials, who act under the new law as the central authority for England, Wales and Northern Ireland, are in touch with the central authorities in Spain and Portugal for the return to the United Kingdom of nine children abducted to those two countries.

They estimate there are 200 such kidnaps in and out of this country a year, and even this is probably a conservative figure. Children Abroad, a self-help group for parents of abducted children based at Keighley in Yorkshire, says the figure could be 500.

Under the Child Abduction and Custody Act 1985, the United Kingdom was able to join with 11 other countries which have agreed international conventions on child abduction. The central authorities in each country liaise to track down the child's whereabouts, enforce court orders across international boundaries and have the child returned home.

It is a sign of the increasing part the law is now playing in tackling the growing and painful problem of child kidnapping. And in the near future there will be measures to



tackle kidnapping to different parts of the United Kingdom. At present, parents can flout a custody order made in England with impunity simply by seizing the child and going — for instance — to Scotland or Wales. But the Family Law Act 1985, now on the statute book and expected to be in force by next year, will put a stop to that. Custody orders made in one part of the UK will be enforceable in another.

Robert Robinson, one of "Hailsham's angels", said recently that what was gratifying was the speed with which such cases can now be resolved. "It was invariably a costly and time-consuming business and, especially for the children involved, a traumatic experience."

Both the mounting incidence of child kidnapping and the new laws to tackle it pose fresh problems for solicitors. Yesterday, a group of lawyers met for the first conference to be organized by the Solicitors' Family Law Association on the issues raised. Felicity Crowther, the solicitor-organizer, says: "Regrettably, more and more parents appear to be turning to child abduction as a means of resolving the problems of custody of their children."

This has been exacerbated by the growing number of international marriages and the ease of travel, she says. But

it is important for solicitors to be fully aware of the powers and remedies at their disposal and at the same time for the new laws to be fully publicized if they are to work properly. Acting for a child kidnapper can also put the solicitor on the spot. Imogen Clout, a solicitor who has dealt with a number of abduction cases, says: "You can get a client coming in and saying 'I've taken the child, I shouldn't really have her — how can you help me to keep her?' Obviously, she says, solicitors cannot assist in the commission of an offence. But they should draw breath and establish whether there has in fact been a criminal kidnap. There may not have been a breach of a court order: if the parents are separated but not divorced, and one parent keeps the child after a visit, then that is probably not kidnap as such."

Solicitors, however, still face the problem of what course of action to advise. If there is a conflict, the solicitor should point out that the child's interests are paramount and that this is the view any court would take in deciding on an order for custody. But above all, she says, lawyers should try to get the parents talking. "That is going to be the best way to get things sorted out."

Frances Gibb

MONDAY

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THE TIMES DIARY

Tattling on Tiny

To the surprise of its publishers, an unauthorised biography of Tiny Rowland, Britain's most secretive tycoon (he lacks even a *Who's Who* entry), has been obtained by Rowland's lawyers. I understand, due from Faber in April, *My Life with Tiny* is written by Dick Hall, an ex-*Observer* reporter who backed Rowland's successful bid for the paper. Nevertheless, some passages are certain to infuriate. One claims that, though born Roland Fuhrop, Rowland denied having any former names when he completed a 1947 company document. Another alleges that Rowland's links with African leaders influenced *Observer* coverage. Hall relates being harangued by Rowland for an article criticising President Moi of Kenya who, Rowland later admitted, had done him a good business turn. Yesterday editor Donald Treford spluttered in indignation at Hall's allegations about *Observer* coverage of the Al-Fayed brothers (who beat Rowland in his attempt to buy Harrods) but refused to comment further. A Lohrro spokesman told me Rowland nearly fell off his chair when he heard the title of Hall's book. "He hasn't seen him for six years and only met him a few times before that."

● Beneath graffiti on a wall in London reading "Stop Society's Rape of Women" someone has scrawled: "Yes, dear."

News flash

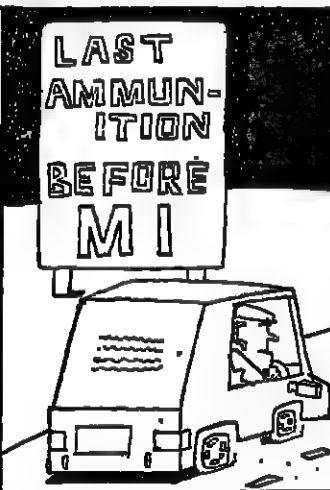
Perhaps Alasdair Milne had to go considering the way the Beeb bungled the news of his resignation yesterday. While its press office was busy telling the agencies and the papers, it failed to inform its own general news service, which supplies all BBC newsrooms from that in Broadcasting House to the smallest local station. One local radio producer, hearing of Milne's departure through independent sources, telephoned general news service for confirmation and was greeted by a stunned silence. All this despite the fact that general news is only 50 yards from Milne's office.

● One feature of Milne's reign as D-G that will not be missed are the impromptu bagpipe performances he would give at private BBC functions. "I would rather listen to a cow giving birth," confides one long-suffering colleague.

Paper money

It doesn't always pay to travel on British Airways — at least not in economy class. An avid *Times* reader tells me that on a BA flight from Turkey to London he was told by a stewardess that newspapers were issued only to passengers travelling club class. He then offered to pay for a copy, but was told it would cost him £50 — the price difference between economy and club. "Generally speaking, newspapers are issued only to club class passengers on European routes," a BA spokesman confirmed, apparently unsurprised by the incident.

BARRY FANTONI



Stream of PCW

Joyce for Beginners, the sort of book that Eng Lit students dream of, underwent a drastic name change before publication, I hear. It has hit the shelves under the title *Using the PCW 8256/8512*. Joyce, disappointingly, turns out to be a nickname for an Amstrad word processor.

Programmed

In the old days, like the day before yesterday, children had their imaginations fed by television characters, demanded that their parents buy them toy replicas and quietly played with them. Now an American company has brought out a toy robot that moves on its own in response to inaudible signals emitted by a TV cartoon called *Tech Force*. The generic name for these toys: "interactive".

● On the 338th anniversary of Charles I's beheading in Whitehall, a notice has appeared under the Welsh Office. It reads: D & R Scaffold Ltd.

No appeal

England's batsmen, having dealt summarily with every bowler the Aussies could throw at them, can think themselves lucky they were not touring in 1974-75, when Thompson and Lille were at their most lethal. Former England captain Mike Brearley tells me the seat then earmarked for the next batsman in beside the door of the England dressing room was nicknamed "the condemned cell". Or were the selectors merely preparing a place for Ian Botham?

PHS

As the kidnaps continue, Hans-Heino Kopietz considers the western response

How to deal with Lebanon?

The anarchy in Lebanon, especially in Beirut, has consumed more hostages victims: two West Germans, two Americans, one Indian, and one French citizen. This will go on as long as non-Lebanese continue to live in the country.

The US government's decision to order its citizens to leave within 30 days is at least a lesson — 10 years too late — that their presence in Beirut is a foreign policy liability. Hostage crises have in the past diverted attention from the real regional problems; without doubt other governments will follow suit, or at least they should. But who are the people who resist to such tactics? What do they wish to achieve?

For the past 12 years, Lebanese society has indulged in civil carnage. The society which, until the early 1970s, deluded itself in believing that it was the "Switzerland of the east" produced a mass of armies, many of them led by traditional chiefs. The Gemayels, Frangieh and the Chamounes representing, among others, the Maronite Christian community, while the Islamic community split between Sunni and Shi'a (themselves divided into a number of warring parties) are led by self-proclaimed or traditional leaders. The Ouseirans, for instance, are a prominent Shi'a family from the south of the country who are, by

and large, conservative and have continued to serve in successive governments, and who themselves lost a son in the early 1970s in a family feud.

Nabih Berri, an American-educated lawyer, leads Amal, the largest of the militant Shi'a groups in west Beirut. It, however, is not pro-Iranian; Tehran's interest is represented by Hizbollah, ostensibly led by Sheikh Muhammad Fadlallah. A rival group, Islamic Amal, is led by Husain Musavi. The Druze community, a heterodox Muslim group, is represented by Walid Jumblatt, the heir of one of the traditional leading families. In theory, and often in practice, the Druze are aligned to Amal.

Sunni interests tend to be represented by Murabitoun, who generally tend to be pro-Palestinian. The Palestinians have long been split into at least seven groups: the mainstream belong to Fatah, headed by Yasser Arafat himself. Others include Saika (pro-Syrian), PFLP (led by Dr George Habash), and the SPLP (headed by Naif Hawatme).

The most unpredictable elements in present Lebanese society are the criminals. Indeed, one can argue that they are, in fact, not criminals at all as there does not exist any formal legal structure. These people are simply armed and take advantage of the existing anarchy, but they perhaps pose an



Terry Waite: no word for a week. Has he too become a pawn in the feuding between rival armies?

even greater threat to foreigners. In other words, the state of Lebanon has been suspended for the time being, notwithstanding the attempts of the government (which is not universally recognized) to maintain a semblance of statehood. This, of course, makes Lebanon's relations with the international community extraordinarily difficult.

What policy should the ordinary state adopt towards Lebanon? In the past all things have been tried. Israel invaded in 1982, thereby further aggravating an

already desolate state. United Nations military forces have tried to maintain a semblance of peace. The American intervention was, to all intents and purposes, defeated after the massacre of nearly 250 US soldiers. Normal diplomatic representation has also continued; some trade has been maintained; arms keep on arriving; but relations have been fragmented.

States deal with the leaders or representatives of the various communities. We are now at a point where, perhaps, more drastic measures must be taken. Non-Lebanese citizens should be withdrawn. The international community might consider establishing a cordon sanitaire around Lebanon by ceasing trade and communications with the country until the time has arrived when the state can reassert its authority. It is absurd to maintain relations with a country which cannot enforce its own laws.

Meanwhile, the tragedy of the hostages persists. It is all well and good to pretend to take a stand against international terrorism, but that does not save the lives at stake. We have learned this the hard way, and this stance has not proved successful. There is no alternative to negotiation.

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The author is an analyst with the International Institute for Strategic Studies. This is a personal view.

Bernard Levin: the way we live now

Glossing over the Gulag



colleagues; on the Labour front bench, and among most of the backbenchers, too, there is little disposition to believe that the Soviet Union is the workers' paradise.

Yet the silence of even the fully democratic left persists, and it needs explaining. (It also needs breaking, but that is another matter.) Men and women who would certainly say, if asked, that they abhor the Soviet system, and sympathize with the system's victims, never think it incumbent on them to say so unprompted, whereas the wickedness of the South African rulers, and the evil visited upon their victims, seem to be constantly in their mouths as well as in their minds.

There are a few peripheral answers; some Labour MPs find it distasteful, even frightening, the hostile reception that criticisms of the Soviet system are likely to meet in many a Labour gathering. Some, indeed, are afraid for their very seats, though today it is the Trotskyite kind of communist rather than the Stalinist variety which is more likely to desert those who offend them by denouncing communist injustice. (Mind you, the distinction is a fine one; the Militant Tendency no doubt prefers its Trotskyism to Soviet communism, but if it came to a choice between Soviet communism and democracy, the Militants would line up behind Comrade Gorbachev without even a flutter of doubt.)

There are also those who believe that although the Soviet Union is deserving of criticism, such criticism should be self-censored in the interests of world peace; call the KGB a bunch of murdering

tyrants, the argument runs, and before you know where you are Soviet missiles will be raining down on Britain. This *post-atomum* of international relations is matched by a similarly foolish attitude held by another section of Labour opinion; this holds that only an encouraging silence about Soviet crimes offers any hope of amelioration.

But all this amounts to no more than a straw's weight in the scale; what is the heavy matter?

One great element in it, I believe, is the use of the word "socialist", by both the Labour Party and the Soviet Union, to describe themselves. There is a powerful tug on the feelings of many Labour Party members, pulling them in the direction of believing that there are many ways to socialism, and that the Soviet Union is progressing on one path, while Labour is marching along another, the goal, however, being the same for both. That is very great nonsense, but nonsense in politics is usually as powerful as sense, and often much more so.

Another element, even siller than the previous one, is the sentimental belief that the Soviet Union, for all its cruelty and oppression, has no class barriers, no poverty amid plenty, no corruption, no drug addicts, no AIDS, no racists and no tipping; each of those claims is grotesquely false, but the desire to believe them true is still enormously powerful.

Then there is the feeling that the Soviet Union's sufferings during the Second World War — entitled the Soviet rulers to a kind of benefit of clergy, presumably until the end of time. The figure of 20

million Soviet war dead is frequently quoted, and an appalling number it is; those members of the Labour Party who quote it, however, rarely stop to recall that the number is greatly exceeded by the holocaust of Stalin's Gulag and his man-made famine. (There is another contributory aspect arising out of that; the details, including the photographic and cinematic ones, of the Nazi crimes have lodged permanently in our consciousness, but because we have no such equivalent archive depicting the Soviet horrors it is easier to avoid facing the terrible reality — indeed, there are still many on the left who refuse to believe in the full truth about the Soviet camps, and I dare say Mr Andrew Rothstein is still arguing somewhere that they didn't exist.)

Orwell observed that "Ever since 1933 the Left has wanted to be anti-fascist without being anti-totalitarian", and it is still true. But although it is true, it leaves the biggest question unanswered. For most of the leading figures of the Labour Party are exceptions to Orwell's maxim; they are anti-totalitarian, and know very well that the Soviet system is precisely what President Reagan called it: an evil empire. There is nothing wrong with their intelligence and understanding, but — I return to where I started — it would not occur to them to campaign against the Soviet system and for its victims in the way that comes naturally (and rightly) to them when they contemplate South Africa. They consistently laud Mandela, and so they should; but the hundreds of Soviet Mandelas get from them, at best, a perfunctory mention, and when Marchenko died, he died, as far as the Labour leadership is concerned, in silence.

The mystery, then, remains. There has been, and will be, no Labour front-bench speech mourning Marchenko, no Labour memorial meeting for him, no Labour vigil at the Soviet embassy, and most emphatically no Marchenko Crescent in Camden (or Islington, Lambeth, Southwark, Haringey, Ealing, Hackney, Sheffield, Manchester, Liverpool, Edinburgh...). We have to face the extraordinary and shameful fact that there are leading figures on the British left who are not admirers of communism, and are sympathetic to those whom it oppresses, persecutes and eventually kills, yet who will not say so.

I cannot explain this, but might one of the hitherto saint Labour leaders care to try? Who speaks first? Indeed, who speaks at all? © Times Newspapers, 1987.

David Watt

Only the brand names differ

Roy Hattersley's new attempt to define the principles of the Labour Party in his book *Choose Freedom: The Future of Democratic Socialism* has already been reviewed by Woodrow Wyatt elsewhere in the paper and I shall not try here to discuss all its virtues and failings. However, two things about it are striking enough to bear repetition. The first is that it greatly enhances Hattersley's claims as a serious political figure. Leaving aside the phenomenal energy required to write a major treatise of this kind in the interstices of a grinding political life, the fact is that there is no one else in the shadow cabinet, apart from Denis Healey and — possibly — John Smith, who has the intellectual capacity to have done it.

All right, there are too many quotations in the book (always the sign of a certain amount of mental indigestion) but Neil Kinnock certainly could not have written a personal synthesis of this complexity if he had spent a hundred years and used a thousand research assistants for the purpose. Brains, and the ability to grasp theoretical concepts, aren't everything in politics but they are some protection against one of the most potent dangers of the age: the seductive power of half-baked ideology over politicians who have neither the mental equipment nor the inclination to wrestle with the ideas involved. It is reassuring to be reminded that at least the deputy leader of the Labour Party has both.

On the substance of Hattersley's book, the remarkable thing is how little it differs from what was being said by David Owen in his *Tawney Lecture*, "Social Market and Social Justice", last week. There is no better way to infuriate Hattersley than to point this out, since insistence on the radical differences between them is an essential part of his stock-in-trade. He never misses a chance to rubbish the SDP or to sneer at its apostasy. But it is impossible for an outsider to spot essential distinctions, as opposed to differences of emphasis, on any of the key issues.

Both follow Anthony Crosland in seeking greater equality as the means to increasing the "freedom" of the less well off. Both attempt by these means (and with considerable success) to rescue the idea of liberty from the clutches of Mrs Thatcher and the monetarists who have successfully perverted it for the last six years. Both agree that free markets alone cannot achieve greater freedom (in their sense) and may well reduce it, but both concede that free markets are in many cases the best means of allocating resources. Both insist on a significant role for the state, but both reject public ownership as a panacea and prefer to experiment with other varieties of worker participation to achieve commitment and consent. Both, in short, are infinitely closer to

each other in their basic instincts about the ends of political action than either is to Mrs Thatcher.

Hattersley attempts to provide the basis of a real quarrel by claiming that the democratic socialist (like himself) seeks total equality and is out to transform the nature of society; the social democrat (like Owen) is content merely with greater equality than at present and is therefore tinkering with the problem. This obviously means a lot to him. Anyone who has read his occasional essays can see that, for him, being a Labour Party member is like being a professional Yorkshireman and a professional cricketer, an expression of sentiment and cultural identification as much as of rational conviction. He is far too conscious of trends to identify himself as the champion of the "working class" as such, as he would surely have done had he been writing in the 1950s. But he puts his emotions explicitly on the side of the new, sanitized equivalent, "working people" — in contrast, presumably, to a vast array of drone-like *remnants* still supposed to be living off unearned incomes and waiting to be swept into oblivion by the socialist revolution.

Of course, there is nothing discreditable about this nostalgia. Most political conviction turns out to be a matter of sentiment in any case. But Hattersley goes only a short way down the road to which his well-cold Labour heart beckons. His total equality turns out, in practice, to be an endlessly receding aspiration; his obligatory support for the trades unions is subtly transmuted into support for trades unionists (a very different thing); what starts off as a swinging system of redistribution ends up as a limited effort to help workers at the bottom end of the pay scale.

Naturally there remain some real divergences between Hattersley and Owen. Owen lays more emphasis on the role of market forces and would probably accept more privatization than Hattersley. He also insists on the crucial importance of international forces, and the need to change institutions and the voting system — subjects which Hattersley, focused in by the mental inhibitions of Labour culture, avoids altogether. But these are not differences that would prevent the two working perfectly well together in a coalition.

What really distinguishes them — apart from the personal animosities created by the schism of their parties — is the fact that Hattersley would be prepared to serve in a Labour government whose centre of gravity would be miles to the left of where he now finds himself, whereas Owen and his colleagues prefer to stand their ground. Which is the best practical method of achieving the moderate policies they are all agreed upon remains to be seen, but in this respect my money is on the SDP.

A.N. Author

Disinterring the remains

An awful instance of *déjà vu* in the post this morning. An envelope tumbles through the letterbox with a brown, not very distinct, oblong embossed beside the postage stamp. Within this oblong appear the words: "A Race Apart". Brad Larrup's latest best-selling blockbuster from Sucker and Windbag.

So, at a stroke, we can establish the origin of the letter, and the identity of the talented creep and retired jockey into whose "works" S & W are now pouring the promotional millions made available since it was taken over by that grasping multinational, Consolidated Dominion.

Envelopes like this can mean only one of two things: royalties or no royalties, usually the latter. (But I shouldn't complain. The last cheque I had from them was for £6.00, which meant that my annual income from *The Soul of Mrs Saxby* had risen by 50 per cent over the previous year; i.e. it had sold 12 copies instead of eight.)

I open the letter. "Dear A.N. Author," it begins. Forgive me if I dwell on that gambit, but it is important, and will put into context the rest of the letter. It is one thing to be called by your first name, and another to be called by your second. As a crude rule of thumb in publishing terms, the former means that you are well in with the current ascendancy, while the latter means that you are out with the same. The cross between *tuilage* and *vouluage* means that they are not quite sure where they stand with regard to you and your work, and are devolving the uncertainty to you.

At this point my mind runs back to the days of the early rejections. This, for example, from Chatter and Windup, in 1982: "Dear A.N. Author, while many of us here enjoyed your portrayal of amorous angst in suburbia, we did not quite feel that your account of Mrs Saxby's (sic) plight was sustainable over 350 pages. Do let us read anything else you may write in the future. Yours sincerely, Moira Squiggle, p.p. J. Squiggle."

Now, after four years with Sucker and Windbag, I have been the recipient of all three modes of address: "Dear Mr Author," when they acknowledged the receipt of the manuscript; "Dear A.N." after a fresh young female graduate had

flogged the paperback rights on the strength of (a) her figure and (b) the buyers never having read the book. Now, completing the circle, a compound of the two.

Here is the text of the letter. Everything in brackets is mine: "As you may be aware by now (I am not), Sucker and Windbag are moving the warehousing operation of their business from Twyford to Banstead. As you can imagine (why?), there is tremendous pressure on us to take with us only those titles which are being shifted (ugh) from our retail outlets (double ugh) with sufficient briskness."

"Unfortunately (surprise, surprise) *The Soul of Mrs Saxby* is not considered (note the use of the all-absorbing passive) to fall into this category. It has therefore been decided (another passive) to dispose of your outstanding (how ironic that the critics should have used the very same word) copies — probably in Australia (why not Swindon, or Tonbridge, or Bradford? What has Mrs Saxby done to become a latter day transport?)

"If you would like to buy any of the remaining stock, please let us know by return. You will find below the number of books available, and the price at which they can be purchased. Yours sincerely, Zelda Squiggle, p.p. J. Squiggle.

"60 @ 10 pence."

So it has finally come about — the condition towards which I have been working all these years — a remaindering. I am there. I have travelled the full cycle of authorship.

At this moment my wife comes down the stairs to find me wheezing in the hall. She clearly believes the breakdown has finally declared itself, and is relieved to discover that these are only the symptoms of seriously advanced mirth.

Up on the mantelpiece that £6.00 cheque remains uncashed — which has been my way of trying to inject a tiny but damaging air bubble into the bloodstream of Sucker and Windbag's accounting system. I think I shall go to the bank this morning and finally present it, then send off for 60 Mrs Saxbys. This will have the effect not only of keeping me in Christmas presents for the next few years, but also of increasing the latest readership figures by 500 per cent. Things are looking up at last.

Steel's election prospectus — and after

When the SDP set off the age of credit card politics in 1981 with its jazzy launch in the Connaught Rooms, the Liberal leader, David Steel, commented a little sniffily that it was all too much like advertising a toothpaste. At a Barbican jamboree this weekend, the SDP/Liberal Alliance, whose tube has been squeezed somewhat thin of late, will be relaunching itself with a new logo, a fresh campaigning colour, and all the razzmatazz it can scratch together.

Steel insists that, far from being a "relaunch", it is the launch of the Alliance's election campaign. But either way, has not the Alliance, still languishing at 18 per cent in the polls after a summer and early autumn of splits over defence policy, now run out of steam?

Steel does not see it that way. On the eve of the last election, he points out, the Alliance was still arguing who should fight which seat and it entered the election with three such battles unresolved. This time, every constituency has been settled already. There is also an agreed joint team of Alliance spokesmen.

To the charge that its vote remains "soft", Steel says the Alliance is a victim of its own success. Commentators compare its current performance only with the past peaks. But it is not so long since the Liberals used to slump to 5 or 6 per cent in the polls. "Our

running average is into the 20s. To have around a fifth of the electorate with us at any given moment is a very sound platform on which to build."

The key figure to watch, he says, is the Alliance standing when the election campaign begins, because both the Liberals, alone in 1979, and the Alliance, in 1983, managed to increase that figure by a third during the campaign itself.

In recent speeches Steel has switched his attack from the Tories to Labour in an avowed attempt to persuade voters they are wasting their time with Kinnock. The post-Thatcher government isn't going to be Labour, he insists; many who support the Alliance have experienced Labour at its worst in local government, and are worried that that would be the flavour of a national Labour administration.

Supposing then, the Alliance did advance at the election and we were faced with a hung Parliament. In an Alliance government, the prime minister would be the party leader with the most MPs behind him. But what would happen in coalition negotiations? In those, says Steel emphatically, the two Alliance leaders would do everything to get their party back to the polls. They would report back to the Liberal MPs and leave the final decision on any deal to them.

Does that mean that a handful of SDP MPs could veto a coalition accepted by a larger band of Liberals? Steel does not envisage a small minority of either party's MPs being allowed to block a deal. And under no circumstances would either party enter a coalition without the other.

A basic condition for any Alliance participation in a coalition is electoral reform. Owen has indicated his belief that the introduction of proportional representation should be sanctioned by a referendum. Steel insists: "We would want immediate legislation in two stages, first PR for local government and Euro elections, and then for Westminster in a bill which could include provision for a referendum."

How are relations with Owen? Don't the Liberals find him too abrasive for the preaching of compromise and coalition? Steel says the support Owen gave him after the Liberal Assembly defence disaster, leading to a closer working relationship, was "the plus among the cloud of minuses".

Steel dismisses the accusation by some Liberals that his idea of negotiating with the SDP is to lie down and say "Take me". It is not, he says, an Alliance of equals. The Liberals have more councillors, the SDP more ex-ministers experi-

enced in government, which is why it has done comparatively well in the agreement on spokesmanships.

What of Steel's own future? If the Alliance does not make the breakthrough this time will he really have the will to continue, having nearly quit after the 1983 election? Steel says he has assured his MPs that he would not "walk out of the door" immediately after the election, even if the results are disappointing. But he says: "If it is just a modest advance, but nothing dramatically different, then I think the party would want to say thank you and goodbye, or maybe no thank you and goodbye."

Steel clearly has major changes in mind for the Liberal Party constitution as much as for himself after the election. He is not prepared to permit a rerun of that Eastbourne debacle on defence.

He makes it clear that he will soon have seen the last of Liberal assemblies at which members of pressure groups can turn up virtually at whim and swing a vote. And the way Steel intends to go is clear: "The SDP policy-making structures have a logic and a cohesion which ours lack."

Is that a subtle hint to Owen that maybe merger might not be such a bad thing after all?

Robin Oakley



1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone: 01-481 4100

TRADING CONCESSIONS

Representatives of the European Community yesterday endorsed a draft agreement designed to avoid, for the moment at least, the threat of a debilitating trade war between America and Europe, sparked off by the accession of Spain and Portugal to the EEC. The agreement, arrived at after a frantic series of negotiations between trade representatives from the two trading units, has been greeted with great relief in Washington and Brussels — and other countries which could have been caught in an Atlantic trade war.

According to its provisions, the EEC will permit the US to sell a total of 2.3 million tonnes of grain a year to Spain and Portugal, up from the previous offer of 1.6 million tonnes. The EEC has also abandoned its previous claim that the US would be compensated for losses in agricultural exports by virtue of America's access to a larger European market for industrial goods. America will certainly face lower tariffs as a result of Spain and Portugal adopting the lower common external tariff, but since the other EEC countries will face no tariffs at all, that will still leave the US at a competitive disadvantage. That being accepted, the US may now benefit from additional tariff reductions on 24 industrial and agricultural products.

Although far from ideal, the

agreement is a necessary short-term expedient. European outrage at the aggressive way in which the US conducted itself during the negotiations may be understandable, though it certainly helped to infuse the proceedings with a degree of urgency. But while the immediate threat of a trade war has been avoided, the new agreement has merely dealt with the symptoms of agricultural trade friction in the Atlantic community.

So far neither the US nor the EEC has marshalled the political will required to make any serious attempt to grapple with its fundamental causes. Both Washington and Brussels know that they need to reduce their burgeoning agricultural surpluses, rather than inventing strategies to dispose of them in a shrinking global market for agricultural produce. At best, the new agreement has managed to buy both parties more time to move in this direction.

Admittedly, it has already taken an inordinate period for this basic truth to sink in. The decision of the US not to seek compensation for lost agricultural sales when Britain, Ireland and Denmark joined the EEC in 1973 may have fostered the belief in Brussels that the US would be just as accommodating this time round so that reform could be postponed still further. But the US has since experienced a marked deterioration in its

agricultural trade. Its 1981 agricultural surplus of \$25 billion had declined to \$7.8 billion by 1985, and it actually recorded a deficit for one quarter in 1986 for the first time in twenty years. Meanwhile, the EEC has notched up a \$15 billion surplus in agricultural trade with the US.

In many respects, the Atlantic trading community resembles two gigantic kettles, each calling the other black. Each accuses the other of trying to dispose of its agricultural surpluses by increasing its share of world agricultural markets through the use of competitive subsidies. Both now subsidise their agricultural sectors to the tune of \$25 billion a year. At this point, arguments over who started it are surely futile. What matters to politicians is to come up with solutions.

The US refusal to accept further agricultural export losses has brought the need for wholesale reform into dramatic relief, while avoiding the painful, if salutary, lessons that a trade war would provide. It is now incumbent on both Washington and Brussels to begin dismembering their vast agricultural subsidy programmes, which brought us to the edge of the precipice in the first place. If the next round of GATT talks, initiated in Punta del Este last September, fail to make progress on agriculture, more serious trade conflicts are inevitable.

SKILLS FOR JOBS

Electoral fever among politicians is such that any new move to train the unemployed, or to ease their passage back into jobs, is bound to be scrutinised first in terms of its effects on the unemployment figures. It would be naive to think that only the Opposition is interested in such calculations. That is no reason, however, to elevate the side effect above the main intention. The importance of the package of additional measures announced by Lord Young this week lies in improving the workings of the labour market, principally by matching the actual needs of real people with industry's need for demonstrably skilled workers.

By far the most significant element in the package is the introduction of the Job Training Scheme on a national basis. The Manpower Services Commission has developed the scheme to fill a specific gap. It is intended to provide people under 25 who have been unemployed for half a year or more with six months of training towards vocational qualifications. The extent of this gap may be measured by Lord Young's aim of creating 110,000 places by the autumn, enabling rather more than double that number to receive training in a full year.

The idea that there is a serious shortage of skilled workers amid high overall unemployment was at one time treated rather casually — but no more. Every detailed survey of employers — as well as the experience of Job Centres and the researches of the Manpower Services Commission — shows that the evidence is far more than anecdotal and

the problem far more than just the result of lack of labour mobility. The company-based study of employment trends by the Occupations Study Group, for instance, emphasised the demand for changing skills and for people who are flexible in acquiring new skills. It may be that employers are too prejudiced about those, especially the young, who have been out of work for some time. Many of those who are eligible for the new Job Training Scheme will not be unskilled so much as possessing the wrong skills for a fast-changing market. And there is little doubt that some employers themselves are partly to blame in that they pay only lip service to the endless exhortations to take training more seriously.

Increasingly, the Government accepts that it will have to fill some of this gap. On present estimates, based on pilot programmes, the JTS certainly should prove cost-effective. Half its estimated annual cost of £206 million will simply be a more productive use of money already being paid out on social security. The rest will be diverted from other Department of Employment or MSC budgets.

The further decision to extend Job Start interviews to all those unemployed for more than six months (at a cost of some £40 million a year) reflects the programme's initial success. Whether through help or challenge, the numbers of long-term unemployed have now begun to creep down after years of rising disproportionality.

Overall, however, special employment and training

measures will soon cost nearly £3 billion a year. About half of this is in training, principally the Youth Training Scheme. But even this will prove a great burden — as well as causing endless frustration among the young — if it becomes entrenched as a method of reducing the supply of labour.

It is destructive and silly, however, to suggest that people are simply being trained for the dole queue. There are few today who suppose that unemployment reflects a general shortage of demand in the economy. The number of jobs created is likely to reflect in greater measure the effectiveness of training (not just by the state) and the more widespread acquisition of skills needed to make industry more competitive.

Thanks to the blurring of the trend of unemployment figures, the focus of attention is at last likely to focus on employment, rather than on unemployment as the measure of economic success. Even here, the Government has a long way to go. There are probably still 1.4 million fewer employees than when Mrs Thatcher entered office. Thanks to a long-needed recovery in self-employment, the employed labour force has shrunk by nearer 700,000. But the trend is sharply in the right direction. There has been an increase of more than a million jobs since the nadir of the world slump in 1983 and export growth is helping to keep up the pace at a time when many thought it would begin to slacken. The success of training and reskilling programmes may prove a key to progress over the next three years.

MR MILNE TAKES HIS LEAVE

Noone should be surprised at the ending yesterday of Mr Alastair Milne's career with the BBC. As is the way with great bureaucracies, the manner of his going was somewhat mysterious. He saw his Board of Governors; he resigned for personal reasons; he immediately cleared his desk and for the next few weeks (maybe more) the most senior editorial position in British broadcasting will be held not by a distinguished former programme maker, a former head of BBC Scotland, a former head of the country's major television channels, but by an accountant.

The final details may stay a trifle obscure. Was there a final straw that broke relations between the Governors and their Director General? Was it the Zircon row, the Panorama libel case, the privatisation threat to his pop radio channel, the death of an amateur stuntman on his *Late Late Breakfast Show*?

The very possibilities are a reminder of what an extraordinarily wide range of responsibilities falls on one head under the current way that the BBC is established. But the answer is likely to be

that it was none of these reasons that resulted in the abrupt elevation yesterday of the BBC's top financial figure, Mr Michael Checkland, to the temporary editorial leadership of its programme makers.

A Director General receives his authority by gift of the Governors: he holds it by adding two further bases of power, the senior management who have profited from his patronage and the journalists who rely on him for protection. Over the past eighteen months Mr Milne's support in all these quarters has been eroding.

He attempted to stand for what he saw as the best public service traditions of the BBC. He fought bitterly for bigger licence fees. He showed a distaste — almost a disdain — for politicians. He was a champion of the Corporation's expansion into every possible area of the expanding media business. He was a missionary for BBC values.

But like other missionaries, he tended to be inflexible. He never had the skills necessary to negotiate around *Real Lives* the Peacock debate, or the onslaught over the Iranian

raid. He never faced up convincingly to the inevitability of change, the need, to take one example, for more independently produced programmes, the one mechanism by which, without altering the BBC structure, private-sector cost savings could be introduced.

The Director General's difficulties had been clear for some time. Since the appointment of Mr Duke Hussey as chairman it was equally clear that something would be done about it. The various actions of Mr Norman Tebbit probably prolonged his tenure by several months. Yesterday was adjudged an appropriate time.

It has to be assumed that no candidate is clear in the Governors' sights. If one were, the BBC would surely have been spared an uncomfortable interregnum. It is important that Mr Milne's successor is chosen as quickly as possible. It is even more important that he or she is of independent mind, has journalistic skills, has the political skills to fight political battles and the management ability to make sure that the only battles fought are the necessary ones.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Lessons from the Wapping clashes

From Mr Gerald Owen, QC

Sir, Last Saturday night saw once again a demonstration which resulted in violence of appalling gravity. It is not proposed here to enter into any political discussion or upon the rights and wrongs of the dispute or of the eventual damage.

It should not be beyond the ingenuity of the Home Secretary to bring statutory regulations into force in order to control marches and demonstrations. Conditions such as these could be imposed:

1. The organiser to submit the date, route and venue at least three weeks before the event to the chief constable for the area.
2. The chief constable in his discretion to determine the route and destination and limit the number of those taking part.
3. The organiser to deliver to the chief constable the name and address of every person taking part.
4. The chief constable to supply name labels of, say, 3in x 4in to the organiser, each label to be affixed to the lapel of each person taking part.
5. Each person to have his face clearly exposed (this to prevent stocking net to conceal the face).
6. No march or demonstration to begin before one half-hour after sunrise and to disperse not later than one half-hour before sunset.

Any person taking part in breach of any of these conditions would be guilty of a statutory offence triable summarily with, say, a fine up to £100 or three months in prison.

An appeal against any condition imposed by the chief constable could be made immediately to a magistrate or to a judge in chambers.

Small marches or demonstrations of, say, less than 25 would be exempt. Specific bodies such as the Salvation Army or ex-service men's parades could apply for exemption.

Genuine demonstrators have nothing to fear from the above conditions. Indeed, they have everything to gain, as they would be immediately identified and distinguished from unauthorised "rabble".

Furthermore, to limit demonstrations to daylight hours would not only ensure proper surveillance but would give residents in the area a peaceful night's sleep. It would also ensure by photography that culprits would be more readily exposed and arrested.

Yours etc,
GERALD OWEN,
3 Pinner Buildings,
Temple, EC4.
January 26.

From Mrs Jenny Pickford
Sir, When I was recently employed by a national newspaper in Fleet Street in a secretarial capacity, I was told I had to join the union, the one in this case being Sogat.

No representative of the union approached me. I signed no membership form and received no union card during the whole period of my employment. However, £4.36 per week was deducted regularly from my pay, before I received it and without my consent.

Prayer Book use

From the Rev Christopher Pullin
Sir, Dr Homan (January 22) appears to subscribe to the "conspiracy theory" regarding the diminishing use of the *Book of Common Prayer* — that bishops and theological colleges are determined to deprive the faithful laity of the Church of England of the liturgy they all yearn to use.

It is a theory erected to shield its believers from the plain fact that times change, and that the Church and its liturgy have always to be renewed and adapted. That is a process that will happen by the very nature of things; those who constantly look backwards will find themselves left behind, as we see today.

If the *Book of Common Prayer* is so self-evidently wonderful and fine a liturgical book, so effective

an instrument of mission and of Christian teaching for the latter quarter of the 20th century, one wonders why its survival as a frequently used liturgy appears to require the constant vigilance of special societies and pressure groups.

If the *Book of Common Prayer* is a dying, the drags and ventilators of their desperation will sustain an artificial life for only a limited time. Perhaps it would be honoured better by being allowed a natural, dignified and peaceful death, supported voluntarily by those who love and revere it.

Yours sincerely,
CHRISTOPHER PULLIN,
All Saints' Vicarage,
Bertha Road,
New Elham, SE9.
January 22.

From Mr D. J. Kemp
Sir, Your report (January 27) of the Commons debate on the recent violence at the Wapping print plant quotes Mr Gerald Kaufman as stating that "only half of one per cent" of people in attendance were arrested.

Does he realise that if his benchmark were applied to a football crowd of, say, 30,000 only 150 people would be arrested? Such a pleasure it would be to attend this "largely peaceful" match.

Yours sincerely,
D. J. KEMP,
Goodview Close,
Yapton, West Sussex.
January 27.

From Mr A. S. Arnold-Brown
Sir, A reader's opinion, regardless as to the rights and the wrongs on either side at Wapping.

For our loyalty before your move, readers were rewarded by days without number when *The Times* failed to appear, and if it did was disfigured by misprints.

Rarely, since Wapping, a cross word about some crossword misprint and never a day without *The Times*.

Might those who demonstrate consider for one moment that there is a public to consider, as well as an employer, and the law? I am, Sir, yours faithfully,
A. S. ARNOLD-BROWN,
A-B Gallery,
Salcombe,
South Devon.
January 26.

From Mrs A. Russell-Taylor
Sir, Now that the tactics used by demonstrators at Wapping involve the use of such barbaric weapons, I think it is grossly unfair and cruel to take horses onto such a battleground.

The police must dread the injuries they know will be inflicted upon their animals, and I am grateful to them for doing a job I would hate, and be incapable of; but at least they can choose to go or stay. The horse has no such freedom, and deserves more respect.

Yours faithfully,
ANGELA RUSSELL-TAYLOR,
Brinsop,
Hereford.
January 26.

From the Director-General of the Royal National Institute for the Blind
Sir, We read with interest the letter from Sir Anthony Wagner (January 23) — a blind man whose cassette tapes had been erased while in the post.

This is quite a rare problem. RNIB's Talking Books Service, which sends two million cassettes through the post every year, is usually unaffected.

The problem is caused by other magnetic objects in the post and not by postal handling. Anything strongly magnetic can affect a tape and can sometimes leave it completely blank. This can be prevented up to a point by wrapping the tape in tin foil before sending it.

We hope this tip helps.
Yours sincerely,
IAN BRUCE, Director-General,
Royal National Institute for the Blind,
224 Great Portland Street, W1.
January 26.

From Mr R. L. E. Orme
Sir, In response to the letter from Clarencieux King of Arms, we had similar difficulties with tape-recorded research data posted to another centre for analysis.

It was uncertain whether the problem was caused by the equipment used for sorting letters, but nonetheless tapes packed in a metal tin survived the journey with their magnetic message intact.

Yours faithfully,
R. L. E. ORME,
University of Exeter,
Postgraduate Medical School,
Department of Child Health,
Bommoor House,
Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital (Worford),
Barrack Road, Exeter, Devon.
January 27.

on this board, the Salisbury and South Wiltshire Museum, the relevant local museum, was given the opportunity of paying the Treasury £2,000 for the board. Purchase would, however, have resulted in the museum's breaking the Museums Association's code of practice for museum authorities which specifically discourages the acquisition of objects unscientifically or illegally recovered from ancient monuments.

If it is decided to purchase the hoard then the stated principle that the *ex-gratia* payment "reflects a proper balance between the fact of the conviction and the reporting of the find" (Mr Key's letter, December 15) would surely be a nonsense, since the Treasury would return the find to the finder who, by selling it elsewhere, would gain its full value and not the *ex-gratia* value, said to be less than half the full value.

To achieve the stated balance, the Treasury would need to return a fraction only of the total hoard and in cases of treasure trove involving single objects this would clearly be impossible; otherwise museums must break their ethical code of practice.

Even where they are prepared to do this, would not national and local grant-awarding bodies be reluctant to support museum appeals for such acquisitions for fear of appearing to condone or encourage the illegal use of metal detectors on archaeological sites, or indeed any illegal actions which lead to the discovery of treasure trove?

Yours faithfully,
P. R. SAUNDERS, Curator,
Salisbury and South Wiltshire Museum,
The King's House,
65 The Close,
Salisbury, Wiltshire.
January 13.

Lines of advance for UK phones

From the Chief Executive of British Telecom

Sir, I would like to question a number of the points raised by Jonathan Miller in his article, "Phones engaged in the past" (January 24).

Firstly, it is difficult to make any valid comparison between the American Telephone and Telegraph Company strike in the USA and the present situation in the United Kingdom. AT&T runs only the national and international links, whereas British Telecom must also keep the local exchanges and networks operating.

Paradoxically, however, the high incidence of electro-mechanical Strömgren equipment still in our network is not necessarily a disadvantage in the present industrial action. While it is true that digital exchanges need much less day-to-day maintenance, when they do go wrong they can "crash" completely. Strömgren does not "crash". It degrades slowly over a period of time.

The lack of modern exchange equipment in our network arises from under-investment in the 1970s (when the then Post Office Telecommunications was subject to stringent public-sector borrowing requirements) and delays in the System X programme — a programme whose shape was also determined in the 1970s.

In the two years since privatisation British Telecom has accelerated its digitalisation programme to the maximum extent that our suppliers can deliver the equipment and we can install it. There is no longer an investment constraint. And we have, of course, added an "off-the-shelf" product to supplement System X.

Mr Miller suggests some form of Whitehall enquiry, with the aim of speeding up our modernisation programme to put the entire country on digital exchanges within five years. Setting aside the point that it is Whitehall control which, in one shape or form, has given us our present inheritance of outdated equipment, we believe that our own target is more demanding than Mr Miller's. We plan to have the whole trunk network digitalised by the end of 1988. Modern electronic local exchanges are planned to replace Strömgren in the local network by 1992.

Exchange equipment is not the full story, of course. Transmission is just as important, and here we already lead the world, with a higher percentage of optical fibre cable already operational than any other country.

Yours faithfully,
IAN VALLANCE,
British Telecom,
81 Newgate Street, EC1.
January 29.

Tapes at risk

From the Director-General of the Royal National Institute for the Blind
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January 27.

ON THIS DAY

JANUARY 30 1892

Hawaii, described by Mark Twain as "the loveliest fleet of islands that lies anchored in any ocean," was formally annexed by the United States in 1898. It became one of the US territories in 1900 and the 50th state in 1959.

REVOLUTION IN HAWAII.

SAN FRANCISCO, Jan. 28. The Hawaiian steamer *Claudine*, which arrived here at 2 o'clock this morning, brings startling news from the Sandwich Islands. The long-threatened revolution has broken out, the Queen and Government have been overthrown, and a provisional Executive and President have been appointed. A commission representing the islanders, headed by Mr. Thurston, were on board the *Claudine* on their way to Washington with a petition praying the Government of the United States to annex the islands. Queen Liliuokalani, the constitutional monarch of the Kingdom of Hawaii, who has been summarily deposed, has enjoyed a brief reign of rather less than two years. She succeeded her brother, King Kalakaua, on January 30, 1891.

The deposed Queen, who is in her 55th year, is the widow of the late John O. Dominis, a native of the United States. Before the *Claudine* sailed from Honolulu the following proclamations were made:

1. Liliuokalani, by the grace of God, under the Constitution of the Hawaiian Kingdom, Queen, do hereby solemnly protest against any and all acts done against myself and the constitutional Government of the Hawaiian Kingdom by certain persons claiming to have established a provisional Government of Hawaii, and for this Kingdom, I declare that I yield to the superior force of the United States of America, whose Minister, Mr. John L. Stevens, caused the United States troops to be landed at Honolulu, and declared that he would support the said Government. Now, to avoid any collision with armed forces, and perhaps loss of life, I do hereby order that I be impeached by the said force, yield my authority until such time as the Government of the United States shall, upon the facts being presented to it, undo the acts of its representative and reinstate me in the authority which I claim as the constitutional Sovereign of the Hawaiian Islands. Done this 17th day of January, 1898.

LILIUOKALANI.

SAN FRANCISCO, Jan. 29. Further particulars received here of the circumstances which led to the revolution show that when the Queen's intention to proclaim a new Constitution became known a large crowd of Hawaiians gathered about the palace. The Queen summoned her Ministers to the Blue Room, where her Majesty, seated at a table in a magnificent morning costume, and wearing a sparkling coronet of diamonds, at once demanded their signature to the new Constitution, declaring her intention to promulgate it immediately. The Attorney-General and the Minister of the Interior promptly and in decided terms refused their assent.

The other Ministers at first hesitated, but finally also declined to sign. All then earnestly advised the Queen not to violate the law, but her Majesty was not to be dissuaded, and, bringing her cleft-hand down upon the table, said: "I do not wish to hear any more advice. I intend to promulgate this Constitution and to do it now." Then the Queen threatened to go to the steps before the palace and tell the natives that she wished to give them a new Constitution. The Ministers prevented her from doing this immediately; but, fearing the consequences for themselves should she carry out her intention, they hastily left the palace and sent round information to all their friends of what had passed. The leading citizens of every political complexion met hurriedly, and decided to support the law and the liberties of the people, and to resist the revolutionary encroachments of the Queen.

The Ministers revisited the palace, though not without apprehension for their personal safety, and brought great pressure to bear in order to induce the Queen to retract her steps. Her Majesty was very angry; but finally said that, since she had met with obstacles, she would postpone for a few days the proclamation of the new Constitution. During the conference the Royal troops were drawn up outside the palace. After the Queen left the Throne Room a native harangued the crowd outside, demanding the blood of the Ministers who had opposed the Queen's wishes. The Queen subsequently addressed the people from the balcony of the palace, denouncing the perfidy of the Ministers; but a representative of the whites, speaking from the palace steps, told the crowd that the Queen had betrayed them, and demanded her death. It was at this juncture that the Committee of Public Safety was formed, and the Queen saw that further resistance was useless.

Yours faithfully,
E. N. BARRAN,
Ackworth Grange,
East Hardwick,
Pomefract, Yorkshire.
January 27.

From Mr E. N. Barran
Sir, Mr Alastair Down (January 26) dislikes Mr Lawson presenting his Budget on the same day as the Champion Hurdle is run. Many people will however hope that, whatever their dates, the result of both events will be the same: Noholmdun.

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January 27.

The charity that goes straight to the heart

Heart and arterial diseases account for half of the 650,000 deaths in Britain each year, says the heart charity Corda. But changing the nation's lifestyle is not going to be easy



In London today, the European Atherosclerosis Society, a body of medical experts from 19 countries, is to make yet another of the many pronouncements to be issued in recent years on ways to overcome the industrialized world's leading epidemic, coronary heart disease.

Their strategy document will go over familiar ground by recommending better nutrition, the eradication of cigarette smoking, more exercise and control of blood. It will call, too, for measures which identify the individuals most at risk so that they can, perhaps, be treated before it is too late.

This is all worthy, sensible and commendable, but is it the best or the most promising approach? The heart charity Corda — Coronary Artery Disease Research Association — does not discount it, but favours a more pre-emptive attack.

For while most heart and arterial diseases, which account for half of the 650,000 deaths in Britain each year, are preventable, changing a nation's lifestyle is not easy.

Obdurately and in full knowledge of all the risks, the young choose to smoke cigarettes. No less impervious to medical exhortation, as Mrs Edwina Currie, the Health Minister, has pointedly observed, their elders persist in bad eating habits.

Thrusting executives continue to encourage their own hyper-

tension. A nation of motorists prefer to drive than walk, even to the corner shop.

Corda reasons that because heart disease begins in childhood — there is some evidence of incipient arterial disease in six-month-old fetuses — and starts to kill at 35, it is vital to promote research into ways of diagnosing the condition before the symptoms, painful and disabling, are manifest.

Corda — an apt name since it is the Latin word for hearts — was founded in 1975 to fund research not only for early diagnosis but into methods that are, unlike exploratory surgery or the injection of dye into the heart for X-ray study, safe and painless.

Corda also funds work on measures to prevent and treat heart and blood vessel disease. It is the only charity that focuses on the challenge of heart disease in this way, not rivaling other charities in the field, but complementing their efforts.

The charity's founders were John Stephenson, chairman of a Windsor computing company, and the heart transplant surgeon Donald Longmore. Their concern was that heart disease was being tackled only at its end stage rather than early on.

Because he was a pioneer of heart transplant surgery in Britain, Mr Longmore's involvement is particularly significant.

He acknowledged that in the time it took to perform one heart transplant, 100 or more people in London alone would have a heart attack. While today such trans-



Last resort: the need for heart transplants could be avoided with earlier treatment, says Corda

HEART FACTS

● The heart can pump from 10 to 60 pints of blood a minute, depending on bodily needs, and can circulate and return the blood within 40 seconds

● A quarter of the 180,000 deaths from coronary disease in Britain each year could be prevented by applying existing knowledge, says the Royal College of General Practitioners

● No measure can do more for the health of the heart than stopping smoking, as the habit lowers the efficiency of the body's oxygen-supplying system and encourages atherosclerosis

itself. The charity has been fortunate in its patrons. They helped it to negotiate a collaboration between GEC-Picker, the magnetic resonance machine's British manufacturer which discounted its price substantially, the Department of Trade and Industry who provided loan finance under its Pre-production Order Scheme and the governors of the National Heart and Chest Hospitals group who stood guarantor for the DTI loan and provided accommodation for the scanner at the Brompton Hospital.

This enabled the machine's quick acquisition and the formal opening of the MR Unit by Mrs Thatcher two years ago.

So far, Corda has paid back £190,000 towards the cost of the scanner and is becoming increasingly dynamic in its fund-raising, says its executive director, Anthony Burns. Until now, its money

has largely come from charitable bodies such as the Sir Halley Stewart Trust, the Bernard Sunley Charitable Trust and the Charles Wolfson Charitable Trust.

But it has now launched a trading subsidiary and is forming a network of supporter groups as part of a bid to augment revenues.

The charity also looks to industry for help and several companies have made donations. But Anthony Burns believes that British business has yet to see how vital heart research is, not only from a human but from its own commercial point of view.

"Companies take great care over choosing and grooming key people by training and rewarding them with pay and other incentives. But a significant proportion of these young high-fliers die in their 40s, their potential unfulfilled."

"The investment put into them is completely lost. Our research is, apart from all else, cost effective to the extent that it helps to prevent this."

Mr Burns believes that Corda's work holds out the promise of being able to eradicate the major part of the heart disease scourge, and that it therefore has a duty to seek the support of a wider public.

"We now have a chance to move into a post-Hippocratic era in which doctors, instead of waiting for patients to fall ill before they treat them, will be able to identify heart problems before the symptoms show and deal with them safely and painlessly."

David Loshak

Pumping beats by the billion

The heart's job is to perform the mechanical action of a pump, maintaining blood flow around the body. But it is a pump — a double pump, in fact — that is superior to any designed by man.

The moving parts are resilient and the workload it can undertake is immense, beating two to three billion times in an average lifetime. When healthy, it is wonderfully efficient, yet is contained in a space hardly larger than the human fist.

The heart is a muscular bag comprising two pairs of pumping chambers, the atria and the ventricles. Like any other muscle, it must have a constant supply of oxygen to keep it going.

Deoxygenated blood which has been circulating the body enters the right atrium and then the right ventricle, from which it is pushed through to the lungs for the carbon dioxide to be removed and to take on more oxygen. This oxygenated blood returns to the left atrium and then to the left ventricle.

During one heartbeat the two atria contract, filling the ventricles, which contract in turn. The heart's output can vary from 10 to 60 pints of blood a minute, depending on bodily needs, and having been pumped out of the heart, blood will circulate and return within only 40 seconds.

Blood is propelled through both sides of the heart by three components. There is the muscle of the heart walls, which contracts around the blood, reducing the ventricles' volume by half, sending the blood out.

There are, secondly, extraordinarily durable flaps of tissue which act as valves between the input and output tubes of the heart's main chambers, opening and closing millions of times without fatigue or wear.

Finally, setting a rate for the activity and ensuring that the millions of cells involved contract in the right sequence, is an electrical system.

Various diseases can affect the working of the heart. When a valve becomes damaged, for instance, blood can leak back the way it came, reducing the organ's efficiency and resulting in less oxygen getting to the body tissues.

Or, the heart's natural pacemaker, a cluster of cells embedded in the muscle that produces regular electrical impulses, may fail — a condition corrected by artificial pacemakers.

Because the heart is almost

entirely muscle, it consumes up to 10 per cent of the body's oxygen supply itself, even though it accounts for less than two hundredths of the body's mass. That is what gives the coronary arteries so vital a role and why disease in these arteries is so significant.

The relative significance of the various factors that lead to them becoming clogged by atheroma, the deposit of fatty substances on the artery walls, is still a matter of medical debate. But there is no doubt that diet, smoking and the body's general all-round fitness plays a big part.

According to the Royal College of General Practitioners, a quarter of the 180,000 deaths from coronary heart disease in Britain each year could be prevented by applying existing knowledge.

In the United States, Australia and some European countries, public education programmes have been followed by falls in coronary heart disease mortality of 10-40 per cent, and while not all authorities are convinced that the former caused the latter, the link is strongly suggestive.

The chief villain in diet is now widely believed to be animal fat —

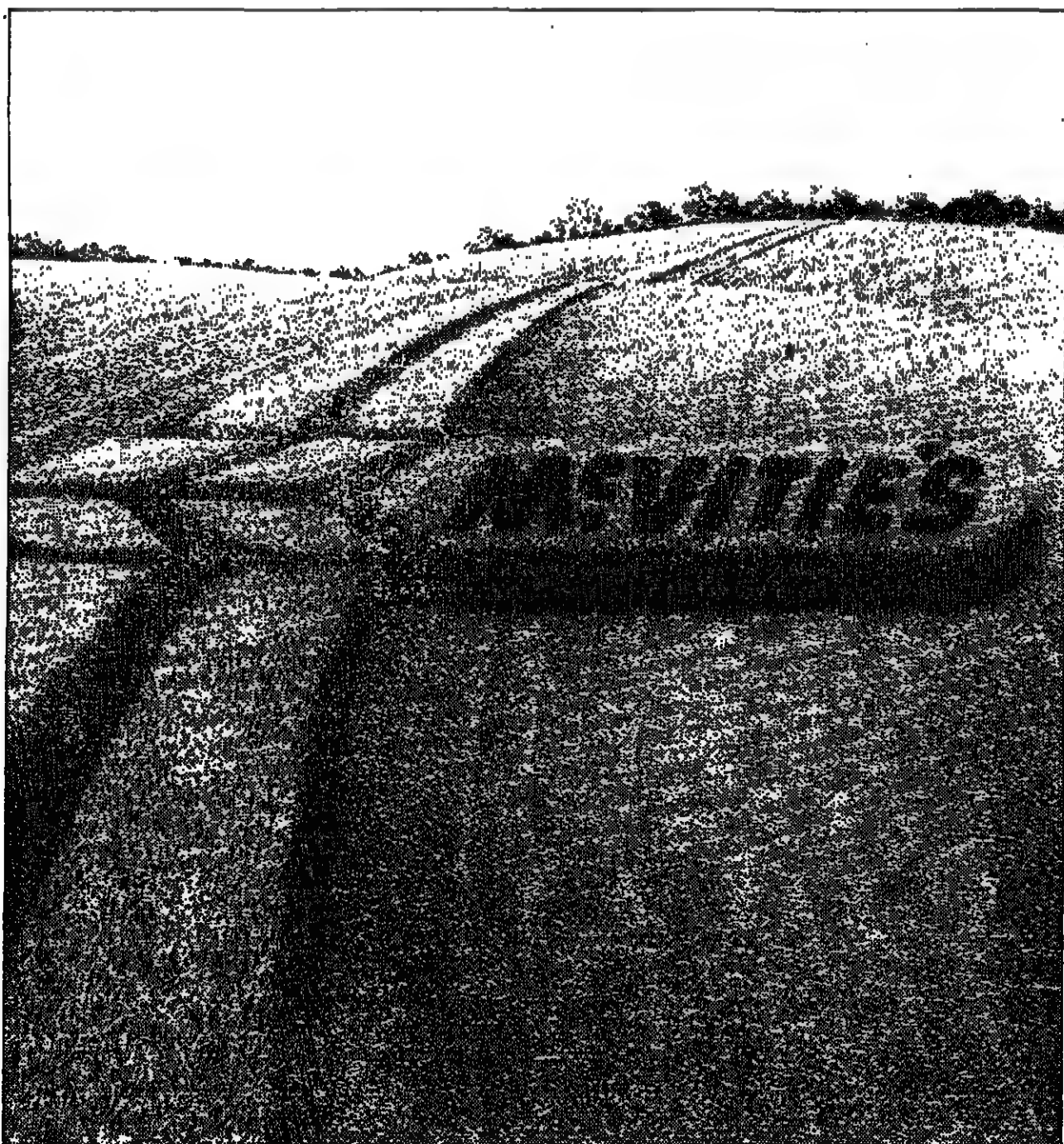
Use of sophisticated drugs is important

red meat and dairy products such as milk and butter. Hence medical exhortations to prefer poultry and fish to meat, and margarine to butter, a reversal of earlier beliefs.

Exercise can do much to reduce the tendency for atheroma to develop, except in cigarette smokers. Indeed, no measure can do more for the health of the heart than stopping smoking.

In addition to preventive measures, therapeutic intervention has become important with the development of sophisticated drugs known as diuretics, beta-blockers, ACE inhibitors and calcium-channel blockers. All act to counter hypertension and its concomitant high blood pressure, another cause of heart disease.

At least as much contention surrounds the appropriate use of these drugs as the role of animal fat in diet. Nevertheless, selectivity and discrimination in their use is increasing. They seem certain to play a big role in countering heart disease, especially as the more precisely-targeted drugs, such as alpha-1 inhibitors, develop. DL



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Leading the campaign for earlier diagnosis: Anthony Burns, Corda's executive director, left, and Donald Longmore, the heart transplant surgeon and co-founder of the charity with John Stephenson, chairman of a Windsor computing company

A scan that can save lives

Heart Diseases of the heart and arteries killed 327,000 people in Britain in 1985. In the 35-44 age group there was an increase of 4.5 per cent in deaths. It brought the group's total to 2,500 which, though comparatively small, represents a huge emotional, social and economic toll.

Many people say of heart attacks: "If you have to go, it's the best way: at least it's a quick and easy death". But that is not so.

Fewer than one-in-five heart attack victims die outright. Most victims have to learn to come to terms with being an invalid, says Corda's executive director, Anthony Burns. "They survive to cope with a life that can never be the same again".

There are good reasons for believing that the main process responsible for the enormous toll of death and disability that heart disease extracts can be slowed down, stopped or even reversed.

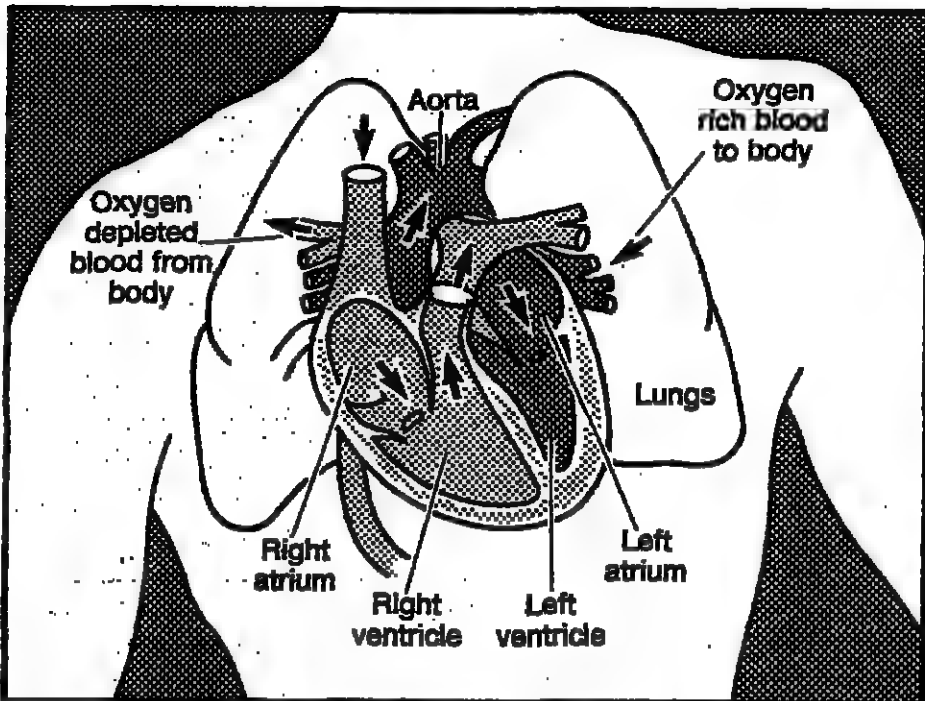
That process, analogous to furring up of the pipes in hard water areas, is the growth of patches, or "plaques", of atheroma - abnormal waxy, cheese-like tissue which develops on the interior walls of the coronary arteries feeding blood to the heart and other blood vessels.

Starting early in life in most people in Western countries - but with present techniques not visible until middle age - the atherosclerotic plaques slowly grow and increasingly block an artery.

When the stage is reached that no oxygen, carried in the blood, can get through the coronary arteries to nourish the heart, a heart attack will ensue: a similar process in the vessels feeding the brain causes strokes.

Atheroma was first described 160 years ago but it is only in recent years that medical scientists have come to understand how it forms and, therefore, how it might best be combated.

Corda's research is based on the principle that this process is not ineluctable. Most other research into occlusive arterial disease is aimed at coping with its consequences. The real answer lies in prevention. And the evidence is there to



HEART FACTS

■ The time taken to obtain heart data has been reduced with Corda's magnetic resonance scanner from 40 minutes to four.

■ In Britain, there are 368 deaths from coronary heart disease per 100,000 males. In France, the comparable number is 112.

■ On a typical GP's list of 3,000 patients, 500 are likely to be first-time candidates for heart disease; 900 second-time.

■ Fewer than one-in-five heart attack victims die outright.

being carried out at the National Heart Hospital, Guy's, St Mary's, St George's, Cardiff Royal Infirmary and the University Hospital, Nottingham.

But Corda's major research effort is aimed at early and non-invasive diagnosis by magnetic resonance imaging of heart and arterial disease.

Given that atherosclerotic tissue, once it has begun to form, can be broken down before it is calcified, the hope is that greater understanding of the process, in living humans rather than through post-mortems, will enable doctors to intervene effectively, with medicines and

preventive measures that moderate the disease.

Magnetic resonance screening is a completely non-invasive, safe and painless method of achieving a vivid picture of the condition of the blood vessels and accurate measurements of blood flow and other crucial factors.

The scanner weighs eight tons but advances in design already hold out the possibility of being able to provide miniaturised diagnostic units akin to the mobile chest X-ray vehicles of the past.

Even in the brief period of 2½ years in which Donald Longmore, a heart surgeon and his colleagues at Brompton Hospital, London, have been working with the imager, the time it takes to obtain valuable data on patients has come down from 40 minutes to four. This holds out the real possibility of effective mass screening for atherosclerosis.

"We believe that a national monitoring service, using transportable MR scanners, could relegate heart disease to the history books, like tuberculosis," says Anthony Burns.

He envisages mobile units having links with regional heart centres, perhaps contracted to the NHS. There is little in the way of establishing such a system other than shortage of funds.

Health and the magic magnet

Although there are encouraging signs that preventive strategies in health education, diet, smoking and exercise are helping to reduce the incidence of coronary heart disease, it will be years before they can be properly assessed.

Corda believes that the ability to examine the interior of the coronary arteries and make accurate measurements of blood flow and other factors could bring about improvements in much less time.

That is why the charity attaches so much importance to its magnetic resonance diagnostic unit, which has one of the few magnetic resonance scanners in use in Britain.

Two years ago, a Corda research team studying the diagnostic potential of the natural phenomenon of magnetic resonance found that the scanner could use the electrical signals of the body to trigger the machine so that the heart could be imaged at any point in its cycle.

The quality of the images is stunning, far superior to X-rays, and they can be both still and moving, and in colour. Magnetic resonance can produce high-contrast sectional images of any part of the body and is very sensitive to physiological changes.

It is not a new technique but it is only recently that there

effectively a magnet surrounded by liquid helium and nitrogen and with a strength 10,000 times as great as the earth's magnetic field.

The radio waves, of the same kind to which the body is constantly and harmlessly exposed, are then passed through the body and, if the heart is being examined, exposures are electronically timed to coincide precisely with the heart's cycle.

The scanner picks up the signals at their various levels

Corda's ultimate aim is to set up a network of mobile diagnostic units throughout the country

and converts them to images of exceptional clarity.

But it can do more. It can, for instance, measure the rate and smoothness of blood flow in the arteries and even produce moving images colour-coded according to velocity, or acceleration. This can provide an early marker of potentially fatal disease.

The MR project and the developments arising from it promise, on their own, to realise many of Corda's aims. But it will be years before these machines are common, let alone before there can be a network of mobile units. Corda's ultimate aim.

Therefore, other non-invasive techniques are also under study. These include refinements of the electrocardiograph as well as of ultrasound measurements and their application to blood flow and the functioning of the aorta.

Family doctors are in the best position to identify those who are most at risk of heart disease. On the typical GP list of 3,000 patients, 600 are likely to be first-time candidates for heart disease and 900 more are second-time risks.

Consequently, mobile MR imaging, when it comes, will bring a high technological resource right into the community, where it can have most preventive effect.

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To provide our shareholders with an acceptable return on the money they have invested in the Group.

To provide for the long-term growth and stability of the Group in the interests of customers, employees and shareholders alike.

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Surgery: the years of success

Safe and widespread cardiac surgery had to await advances in anaesthesia, antibiotics and blood transfusions during and after the Second World War.

Heart-lung machines in the early 1950s allowed surgeons to perform prolonged open-heart surgery, using the first artificial heart valves, and in 1958 the first heart pacemaker was implanted in Sweden.

Coronary angiography was introduced in 1962 and so were beta-blockers, used in the treatment of high blood pressure and angina.

The first coronary artery bypass graft was carried out in 1967 in Ohio using a leg vein. That year, Dr Christian Barnard performed the world's first human heart transplant in South Africa: the patient survived 18 days. Donald Ross performed the first British heart transplant in 1968.

In 1980, a new anti-rejection agent, cyclosporin A, greatly improved the success rate: two heart transplant programmes were launched in Britain, at Papworth Hospital in Cambridge and at Harefield Hospital, Middlesex, by Terence English and Magdi Yacoub. A third heart centre opened in 1985 at the Freeman Hospital, Newcastle.

In 1981, the first combined heart and lung transplant took place in Stanford, California, an operation performed in Britain three years later. An artificial heart was first implanted in the US in 1981: an artificial heart was used as a temporary measure in Britain late in 1986.

In December 1986, the first heart, lung and liver transplant was carried out at Papworth by John Wallwork and Professor Roy Calne.

Bill Sherman

FRIDAY JANUARY 30 1987

Executive Editor
Kenneth Fleet

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share
1427.0 (-13.4)

FT-SE 100
1798.1 (-14.0)

Bargains
37029 (39468)

USM (Datastream)
141.05 (+0.4)

THE POUND

US Dollar
1.5375 (-0.0020)

W German Mark
2.7498 (+0.0018)

Trade-weighted
68.8 (same)

Valuedale's
buy-in at
Simon fails

The novel £202 million management buy-in bid by the shelf company Valuedale for Simon Engineering has failed after gaining acceptance from the holders of only 6.3 per cent of Simon shares.

Schroders, the merchant bank which pioneered the idea of a new management team taking over while existing shareholders retained most of their equity, said it was disappointed. A new idea was bound to encounter difficulties, it said.

Sir David Nicholson, chairman of Valuedale, said there were three main factors running against the bid: a strong stock market, which undermined the partial share offer, the political climate against contested bids, and the fact that Simon shareholders wanted to give the new management at Simon time to prove itself.

Rank soars

The Rank Organisation reported a 21 per cent increase in pretax profits in the year to the end of October 1986. Turnover rose from £630.9 million to £718.1 million. A final dividend of 11.75p was declared making 18p for the year.

Times, page 27

Lourho rise

Turnover at Lourho was up just 2.5 per cent to £2.65 billion for the year to September 30 and pretax profit rose just over 4 per cent to £165 million. The dividend for the year was 12p net, an effective 10 per cent increase when adjusted for last year's capitalization issue. The company announced a further one for 10 capitalization issue in April.

Times, page 27

In tomorrow's 13-page Family Money: your last chance to enter The Times 1987 Unit Trusts Competition. You can decide whether to follow the experts' recommendations or select your own unit trusts.

Also an in-depth look at the Stock Exchange Third Market, launched this week and advice on timeshare investments. Plus the best-value insurance deals for a late skiing holiday and what you need to do before April 5 if you have a company car.

M&G jumps

M&G, the investment management group, made pretax profits of £15.53 million in the year to September 30, an increase of 53 per cent. The total dividend was raised from 3.75p to 5.2p.

Times, page 27

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MARKET SUMMARY

STOCK MARKETS

New York	2172.10 (+8.71)
Nikkei Dow	19921.05 (+131.12)
Hong Kong	Closed
Amsterdam Gen	2592.2 (+1.5)
Sydney AO	1514.2 (-13.4)
Frankfurt	1777.5 (+38.4)
Commerzbank	4048.70 (+0.47)
General	413.4 (-12.3)
Paris CAC	n/a
Zurich SCA Gen	n/a
London FT A	n/a
FT 30	1427.0 (-13.4)
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INTEREST RATES

London Bank Base	11%
3-month interbank	11 1/2%
3-month eligible bills	10 1/2%
Buying rate	US Prime Rate 7 1/4%
Federal Funds 6 1/4%	
3-month Treasury bills	5.47-5.49%
30-year bonds	10 1/4%

CURRENCIES

London	New York
\$1.5375	\$1.5390
DM2.7498	DM2.7500
Sfr2.2101	Sfr2.2101
FF5.9575	FF5.9575
Yen232.62	Yen232.62
Index 103.1	Index 103.1
ECU 1.74546	SDR 1.74546

Cazenove 'not aware of illegal actions'

Broker speaks
on Guinness

By Lawrence Lever

Cazenove & Co, the stockbroker to Guinness, last night broke its silence on its involvement in the Guinness affair, but said it had not been aware of any "illegal actions" taken by Guinness during its bid for Distillers. Cazenove claimed that "a very significant number of transactions took place without our involvement."

In separate developments, Guinness announced there would be a further delay of more than three months in the payment of its £49 million second interim dividend, while Mr Robert Maxwell hit out at attempts to implicate him in the price support operation for Guinness shares.

Cazenove's detailed statement was forced out of the company by allegations in Wednesday's Parliamentary debate on the City that the firm had paid off members of an illicit Guinness concert party.

The statement said Cazenove had held an internal inquiry aided by its solicitors into whether it had breached the Takeover Code or the law in its handling of Guinness's bid for Distillers.

The "main conclusions" of solicitor Simmons & Simmons were that "nothing in their inquiries led them to believe that Cazenove was involved in or aware of any illegality" and "in the light of subsequent events and speculation it would have been better if Cazenove had not relied on the assurances it received that there was no association between Guinness and Schenley Industries Inc, for whom Cazenove bought shares in Guinness and Distillers, but had made its own inquiries of Schenley."

Cazenove said it was "pleased but not surprised by the first conclusion and, although we have always conducted our business in the City on the basis of trust, we accept the second."

Schenley bought more than 17 million Guinness shares - more than 5 per cent of the company - during the Distillers bid although it failed to give any notification of this stake, as legally required until last month.

Schenley distributed Dewar's Whisky for Distillers in the US and its lucrative contract appears to have been renewed by the old Guinness board on terms which gave it a permanent right to the Dewar's contract.

If, as now appears, there was an association between Guinness and Schenley, this should have been disclosed publicly to the Takeover Panel.

On the question of its alleged involvement in the Guinness "war cabinet," Cazenove said: "No representative of Cazenove ever participated in or was aware of any discussion of any illegal activity or any discussion of improper indemnities or inducements to purchasers of shares in Guinness or Distillers."

The statement said there was no question mark over the future of Mr David Mayhew, the Cazenove partner present at the war cabinet meetings.

With regard to the firm price of Guinness's shares at the height of the takeover bid, Cazenove said it thought this was "due to the market's perception of the chances of Guinness winning the bid, the opportunities for the enlarged group and legitimate support for Guinness. We still think these factors were important."

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US trader names names

From Bailey Morris, Washington

The American government investigation of links between London stockbrokers and Mr Ivan Boesky, the disgraced arbitrator, took a new turn yesterday with the disclosure that Mr Michael Davidoff, former head trader for the Boesky enterprises, has been naming people and disclosing specific deals to Federal authorities.

Mr Davidoff has pleaded guilty to charges by the US attorney's office that he engaged in a "secret agreement" with the British firm of Seligman Harris & Co, to disguise what government prosecutors described as "bogus trades". Seligman, which maintains an eight-person office in New York, was one of Mr Boesky's main stockbrokers in London.

The London Stock Exchange has been pasting information on dealings cantered out by Seligman Harris

through an industry scheme known as "parking," illegal under US securities laws.

Under the parking scheme it is possible to circumvent Federal minimum capital requirements by creating documents to make it appear that shares have been sold. This allows a firm to report larger cash holdings than it actually has and borrow more money than allowed to engage in leveraged share deals.

Mr Davidoff, who was not accused of taking illegal profits or breaking specific insider-trading laws, has agreed to cooperate fully with Federal authorities. He had admitted to violating the minimum capital rules for the purpose of buying more shares for Mr Boesky's firm, officials said.

Meanwhile, Mr Thomas Streeter, the Seligman executive vice president who ran the New York office, denied the firm behaved improperly.

The separate inquiry by the US attorney's office in New York, which brought the fraud charges against Mr Davidoff, raised new questions about Seligman's alleged role in executing secret trades

McKechnie in £10.6m takeover

By Alexandra Jackson

McKechnie Brothers, the plastics and metals group, which escaped the dual assaults of Williams Brothers and Evered Holdings last year, yesterday announced the acquisition of privately-owned Thames Valley Plastics for £10.6 million.

TVP is involved in the manufacture and marketing of PVC moulded products primarily for the home improvement market. In 1984 it made £620,000 pretax profit on £4 million turnover, however, in the year to the end of December 1986 profits had risen to £1.5 million on turnover of £8.5 million.

The consideration is being met by the payment of £200,000 in cash and the issue of 3.9 million new McKechnie shares. A further payment of 515,529 shares will be made if TVP's 1987 profits reach £1.8 million.

Times, page 27

Setback to Fairfax over H&WT bid

Legal action taken by John Fairfax, the Australian publishing group, to prevent the takeover of the Herald and Weekly Times media group by News Ltd, a subsidiary of Mr Rupert Murdoch's News Corporation, suffered a setback yesterday.

Mr Justice Beach of the Supreme Court of Victoria refused to allow two key demands in the action and adjourned the case until February 10, one day after News Ltd's £2.3 billion (£1.046 billion) bid is due to expire.

The judge said Fairfax waited too long before starting proceedings to block the bid, launched in December.

Fairfax sought to stop H&WT disposing of assets or appointing directors without giving a day's notice, registering shares sold to News Ltd, or recommending the News Ltd bid by writing to shareholders. The judge refused to grant the first two petitions.

On Monday, the Australian Broadcasting Tribunal will deliberate on whether Mr Murdoch will have to dispose of all or part of his electronic broadcasting interests in Australia to comply with the country's Broadcasting Act.

Yesterday, Mr Kerry Stokes, the Perth multi-millionaire, said he would buy News Ltd's Channel 10 television stations if the ABC decided they should be sold by Mr Murdoch to comply with the Broadcasting Act.

Mr Stokes' Halfast company said it would also buy one of H&WT's two TV stations.

Dollar up on strong US orders

By David Smith
Economics Correspondent

The dollar enjoyed a respite yesterday, registering small gains against most currencies. Stronger-than-expected US economic figures and reports that West Germany is now keen for an early Group of Five meeting helped its rise.

It rose modestly from Wednesday's six-and-a-half-year low, closing in London at 1.7855 against the mark and 151.95 against the yen. The pound dropped a fifth of a cent to \$1.5375.

US durable goods orders for last month were better than the market had expected. Orders rose by 0.9 per cent, but this concealed a far bigger rise in non-defence orders, up 6.9 per cent, the largest rise since January 1983.

But the markets remained nervous ahead of today's US trade figures. They suggest a deficit of \$14 billion, compared with \$19.2 billion in November.

Speculation about an imminent Group of Five meeting hardened on February 7-8.

The German authorities now appear to be keen for an early meeting because of the muted response in the foreign exchange markets to last week's Bundesbank discount rate cut.

TSB lifts profits by 21%

By Our City Staff

The Trustee Savings Bank's 2.5 million shareholders saw their partly-paid shares slip 24p to 80p yesterday despite the publication of results higher than forecast at the time of flotation last year.

In the year to November 20, TSB made pretax profits of £205.6 million, up 21.4 per cent on the previous year and above the forecast £201 million. The results included £8.4 million of income on the offer-for-sale proceeds.

Profits from banking activities improved 10 per cent to £134 million, reflecting the cost of developing the retail network and a more cautious lending policy.

Advances to customers rose 10 per cent, compared with the previous year's 36 per cent. Mr Derek Stevens, the finance director, said the bank was now more selective in its lending. Provisions for bad and doubtful debts rose by £9 million to £58 million, reflecting the sharp increase in lending in 1985.

Nearly 3.2 million people bought shares in the October flotation and Sir John Read, the chairman, said more than 30 serious cases of suspected multiple applications had been referred to the Director of Public Prosecutions.

Credit card operations improved strongly. Profits almost doubled to £11.3 million but margins are not expected to grow at the same rate this year. Sir John said about 25 to 30 per cent of Truistard applications were rejected.

Profits from insurance and unit trust services rose from £26.5 million to £35.1 million and growth continued in the number of personal cheque accounts, up 450,000 to about 4.5 million.

Amendments to the Banking Bill announced yesterday will permit institutions which have a banking name but cannot meet the proposed £5 million capital test to be exempt from the new requirements. Smaller institutions will be able to resume the use of banking names outlawed by the 1979 Banking Act.

Dollar up on strong US orders

By David Smith
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Sir Ralph carries the day

By Cliff Feltham

Sir Ralph Halpern, chairman of the Burton Group, was given the go ahead to launch a new multi-million pound executive share option scheme yesterday - but only after sharp criticism from shareholders.

The scheme was passed by shareholders after a poll but the result must be a bitter disappointment to the board, with 97 million votes in favour and 53 million against, indicating that there were a number of large institutions still very unhappy with the idea.

Sir Ralph and 80 executives entitled to options will not be able to take them up for several months in order not to benefit from the low Burton share price and there will be no juggling with the rules during the five-year duration of the scheme.

But despite these further safeguards there was still considerable disquiet among many of the 1,000 shareholders who attended a special meeting to approve the scheme, even after confirmation that a £2.5 million ceiling had been fixed on anyone entitled to the options. The original proposals could have been worth £28 million to Sir Ralph.

But there appeared to be unreserved support for Sir Ralph who seemed tense and ill at ease at first after the disclosures about his private life.

But the Burton chief faced what could otherwise have turned into a peep-show by immediately spelling out his thanks to his colleagues for their support and to hundreds of others who had sent messages of goodwill.

"I would also like to thank my wife and daughter for their devotion and strength and that is all I intend to say on this particular subject," he added to applause.

Sir Ralph was called on several occasions to defend the new option scheme after some shareholders had claimed it was "greedy" and "too generous."

The scheme enables executives to options worth up to eight times their salary - twice the normal rate elsewhere - if the company meets two performance targets.

Sir Ralph, in his first public comment on the scheme, told the meeting: "The options are only worth something if the shares go up. There is no benefit otherwise. And the shares only go up if the company performs. We are not giving your money away. The price of the shares only goes up if profits go up. Executives don't get the options unless they hit their targets."

Mr Richard Harris, the non-executive director who heads the special remuneration committee which will decide how many options an executive can claim, said: "The previous Burton share option scheme has been one of the reasons why the company has been so successful in motivating people. The new one is the first in the country to make employees meet a challenge - believe me, this is no sleight of hand."

Mr Oliver Dawson of Foreign and Colonial Investment Trust, one of the institutional shareholders in Burton, obtained an assurance that the company would not allow windfall profits from property sales to boost profits and therefore inflate earnings per share - one of the key targets needed to trigger the options.

On the stock market last night Burton shares fell 7p to 265p despite news that trading was up sharply on the same time last year.



Minding the store group: a reflective Sir Ralph Halpern (left) leaving the meeting

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Another shareholder, Mr Leonard Bash, said he considered Sir Ralph to be "England's second greatest man this century - after Sir Winston Churchill." He added that he was 57 and went jogging every day but "there is no way I can keep up with his standards." Sir Ralph's private life was his own, Mr Bash said - but if I was up to his standards I would do precisely the same thing.

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Rights issue fear takes toll of equities after hours



— COMPANY NEWS

...other increase in your investment would not be welcome."

COMPANY NEWS

Costs and overheads less other income 5,928 (5,702). Interest received 30 (charge 83). Exceptional items 25 debit (credit 42). Pre-tax profit 219 (180). Tax 84 (33). Extraordinary items — offer for Aitken Hume International —

Gallaher Limited, Members Hill, Brooklands Road, Weybridge, Surrey KT13 0QU
Tel: 0932 59777. Telex: 25505.

● **TRANWOOD GROUP:** Results for the 11 months December 31 (12 months January 31, 1986). No dividend (nil). Figures in £000s. Turnover 6,142 (5,923). Costs and expenses 3,611 (3,444). Profit before tax 2,531 (2,479). Tax 500 (480). Profit after tax 2,031 (2,000). Dividend 1,000 (1,000). Retained profit 1,031 (1,000).

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THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Versions or perversions

Bob Gavron, affable chairman of publicly-quoted St Ives, Britain's second largest magazine printer, after Robert Maxwell's BPCC, will host a debate this evening between such unlikely figures as Enoch Powell and John Julius Norwich. The black tie verbal sparring-match is being held under the auspices of the third Folio Society dinner and debate, an organization of which Gavron is both the owner — in his private capacity — and chairman.

Lady Diana Cooper's son, Norwich, who lists "walking at night through Venice" as one of his interests in *Who's Who*, will oppose Powell's motion that "Even the best translations are not versions but perversions of the original."

Last year author Susan Chitty ended up in tears after Germaine Greer chastised her for her book about her mother, Lady Antonia Pinter. "It's usually pretty lively," says Gavron, whose "upmarket book club" has increased membership by 50 per cent since he took over in 1982. Ever the good businessman.



Full circle

Michael Howard, the consumer affairs minister, has, I hear, let it be known that he wants more than one name to be nominated for the chairmanship of the National Consumer Council, when the post comes up for reappointment in September. The present incumbent, Michael Montagu, was yesterday having to face creditors over the collapse of Major Circle, a kitchen subsidiary of Valor, the heater and cooker manufacturer, where he is also chairman. The NCC has long been lobbying Parliament to have the powers of the Insolvency Bill strengthened, and amongst other things it has demanded "automatic disqualification of delinquent directors after two company failures." Ironically Major Circle is not the first of Mr Montagu's companies to go into liquidation. In 1983 an other Valor subsidiary, Valor Partridge, also went bust.

Seatchi & Seatchi may have lost the Channel tunnel account to Collett Dickinson Pearce (the Press campaign begins on Sunday) but the Seatchi's perception of national character deserves high marks. Their slogan for Britain's television ads was brutish and short: *Tunnel The Channel*. For the sophisticated French, something with a more romantic and epic ring: *Le Tunnel — C'est un Rendez-vous avec l'Histoire*.

Sloping off

This skiing lark is as cut-throat as working in the City. Noticeably missing among 500 stockbrokers from 15 countries taking part in the international stock exchange ski week in Badgastein, Austria, this week are Iain Stewart-Hunter, Tony Lewis and Stan Phipps. They competed as the Moseley team at last year's meeting in Italy, and their skiing must have really impressed Tucker, Anthony and R L Day, a medium-sized US brokerage house, because Tucker Anthony has snapped them up, taking over the Moseley premises in London instead of the bargain. So, instead of skiing for London this year, the former Moseley trio were starting work for their new outfit, leaving New York rivals with a clearer ski run.

Gift horse

Solid pieces of glistening marble have been arriving in my post, courtesy of Debenhams, the department store chain now owned by Sir Ralph Halpern's Burton Group, renowned for its extravagant gestures. The lumps of white marble are said to be "a piece of London's stunning, new department store" Debenhams, Oxford Street, due for completion at the end of this month, designed by Fitch & Co. I hope they have enough left over to finish it by the time the entire press corps has had its free gift.

Carol Leonard

The making of a wise investment manager

Or how to avoid losing long-term vision and start treating shares like confetti. David Hopkinson explains



David Hopkinson: caution about slippery slope of change

The investment management community is going down a slippery slope of slowly changing from investment management to financial management, which are utterly different professions.

In a nutshell, they are moving from long-term considerations to short-term asset management and from carrying responsibilities as share owners to treating shares as confetti with no responsibilities attached. A wise investment manager does not consider maximization of assets as his only concern.

His other concerns should be:

- To remember that a successful company takes into account the interests not only of the shareholders but also of customers, suppliers, management and the workforce.

- To take a long-term view of an investment. This may lead to not accepting the first take-over bid that comes along and, indeed, may lead to buying shares as they are falling in value rather than rising. This can have an adverse effect on short-term performance figures.

- To refuse to accept vendor placings and "shelf issues" if it leads to a dilution of equity.

- To refuse to support a chairman who breaks his word even if his removal might have an adverse effect on the share price. It still amazes me that M&G could raise virtually no support from among English institutions to join with us in voting against Mr Ernest Saunders's Guinness board proposals in September.

Not to be greedy and to behave in a way that the beneficiaries of a fund would expect a reputable organization to conduct their affairs.

There is no doubt in my mind that short-term performance, whether in pension funds, insurance companies or investment and unit trusts, will prove to have been the investment heresy of the 1970s and 1980s.

The actuarial profession must share in the responsibility for this, together with computers and stockbroking firms who have increasingly tried to generate market business by use of statistics.

For instance, in the investment trust world, decisions are taken not on investment performance and achievements but on variations in the discount in the share price to assets. The principal tool that has been used has been the concept of "total return" which is appropriate for valuing pension funds but totally inappropriate for investment management.

For investment purposes one needs three different measurements showing:

- Change in asset value to show investment performance.

- Change in level of dividends where a one-point change can mark a remarkable achievement whereas in terms of asset value it may be trivial.

- Change in the yield basis of a portfolio expressed as a percentage of average yield on the indices in order to disclose fundamental policy changes.

It is impossible to tip these three indices into a single index and the concept of total return is not an adequate investment alternative. We shall not get away from what the Chancellor of the Exchequer calls "short termism" until further thought is given to these statistics which should not be too difficult in a computer age.

The second main problem is

the accountability of every investment manager to someone other than himself for the performance of the assets under his control. At M&G we appointed, some 15 years ago, independent non-executive directors of the Investment Management company who are experienced in the investment field to provide this essential monitoring.

It has always seemed to me important that no public stance, or market operation, or efforts to change management should be taken without independent approval.

The field where there is most possibility of abuse appears to me to be in the field of pension fund management where trustees may have no knowledge of investment matters. The actuarial profession has a special responsibility. My explicit proposals are:

- Every board of trustees of pension funds, whether of companies, nationalized industries or charities, should have at least one trustee who is independent and, conceivably, with some investment knowledge.

- This independent investment person should chair a sub-committee of the trustees who would meet regularly to review: 1. The investment policy of the pension fund; 2. The transactions of the investment managers; 3. The turnover of funds where there is a danger of abuse and of over-trading by exempt funds; 4. The long-term performance of the fund and ensuring that short-term views are not often taken; 5. Any public stance on takeover bids or points of principle; 6. Whether the trustees are carrying out their responsibilities as owners of companies and if necessary seeking to improve management; 7. The publication of long-term performance figures of the funds under management, showing comparisons with competing investment fields, indices, earnings, growth of employees and the cost of living.

Such changes would mean that advisory investment panels meeting quarterly or at less frequent intervals would become superfluous.

In addition, further thought needs giving to two other points:

- Should pension funds deal in and hold any shares in their own companies, which can be open to abuse and to misinterpretation?

- Should pension fund trustees be giving much more careful thought to the possibility that the Chancellor of the Exchequer might instruct the Revenue to tax exempt funds as traders when their activities spill over from investment management to financial management and short term operations?

This is an amended version of a talk given to the Argonauts Society of Actuaries. The author is retiring shortly as chairman of M&G.

TEMPUS

Rank celebrates jubilee with a sharper profile

The Rank Organisation's golden jubilee year is off to a good start. The share price climbed, encouraged by yesterday's prelims and at one point reached an all-time high.

The managed businesses (everything except Rank Xerox) had an excellent year with virtually every division making good progress. It has outstripped Rank Xerox as the biggest contributor to group trading profits.

It was no surprise to see hotel and catering profits fall a fifth, reflecting a sizeable drop in London occupancies. This year, however, the Americans have been biting, so profits should return to more normal levels.

Film and television services profited from the noticeably good contributions from distribution, videos and cinemas.

The star performer was the holidays and leisure division. Indeed, even stripping out the contributions from the Ladbrooke and Haven Leisure acquisitions, profits still increased by 40 per cent.

An intensive capital investment programme continues and early signs are that it is paying off.

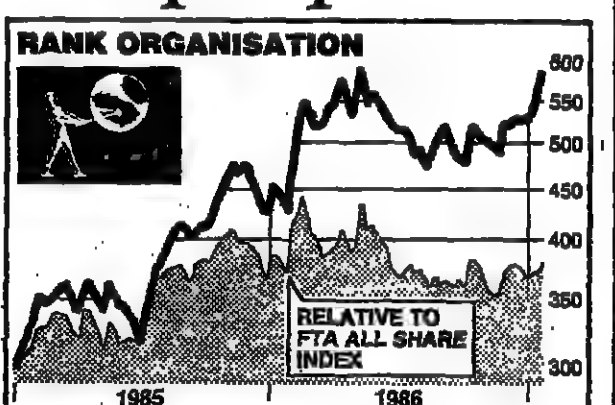
Kingston Plantation, a leisure property development in South Carolina, is progressing well and there are plans to develop the rest of the site.

The industrial logic behind Rank's involvement in the manufacture of precision instruments remains something of a mystery. However, it is still a steady contributor to profits.

In a difficult market, Rank Xerox increased its profits to £31.1 million. But currency movements were a significant boon. In the current year, the strength of the yen and anti-dumping duties will hamper Japanese competition, although these factors will also adversely affect the performance of Fuji Xerox.

Rank's acquisition plans post Granada are likely to take it overseas, particularly to America, where it is barely represented. Leisure is the most obvious area although small acquisitions in the precision instruments world are a possibility.

Rank has used its financial strength to gain a competitive edge. The quality of its business has improved almost beyond recognition.



M & G Group

M&G Group's 1986 results were well publicized when 37 per cent of the company was offered for sale last November. Pretax profit growth of 53 per cent to £15.53 million, therefore, came as no surprise.

The figures, however, do show that M&G is maintaining its dominance in the ever-buoyant unit trust market. Operating profit from unit trust management rose 59 per cent to £10.04 million, after a 20 per cent rise in marketing and commission costs.

Although overall market share is now down to 9 per cent from 12 per cent 10 years ago, M&G's share of unit holder accounts has risen to 10.5 per cent from 7 per cent over the same period.

The shift shows the incursion of insurance companies into the unit trust field with unit-linked life and pensions policies. It also shows that M&G's marketing towards the small investor is very much on target.

Large flotations like the TSB, British Gas and British Airways are helping to raise public awareness of share dealing and therefore helping the unit trust industry.

Life assurance and pensions business contributed £3.025 million, a rise of 39 per cent, and interest and investment income was 49 per cent higher at £2.5 million.

M&G is expected to make pretax profits of about £18.5 million this year, giving a prospective p/e ratio of 17.3 on shares up to 279p. The offer for sale looked priced at 270p, but the shares have maintained their premium to the sector.

Lonrho

Lonrho may well have had the first-rate year it claims in the blurb accompanying its preliminary figures for the year to September 30 — but you have to take the company's word for it. The few figures the company sees

fit to reveal are opaque to the point of obscurity.

At best they indicate a pedestrian performance. Turnover is up a mere 2.5 per cent to £2.65 billion, while profit before tax is up only 4 per cent to £165.1 million.

The group has pushed the British share of its business up from just over 30 per cent in 1985 to 40 per cent last year. With 60 per cent of its business from overseas sources, fluctuating exchange rates are bound to have affected these results.

Lonrho says that the currency impact last year was negative but in the absence of any figures there is no basis on which to judge the underlying performance of the businesses other than its assurances that "trading has never been better."

Nor can you assess Lonrho's financial condition. We are told that cash balances are up by £9 million to £220 million but there is no hint of what is happening on the other side of the balance sheet to loans and overdrafts. One can only assume that they are going up faster, since the company has raised \$100 million (£67 million) of bonds and another \$100 million of convertible bonds in the United States.

Detailed analysis must await publication of the annual report and accounts late next month. Meanwhile, we are allowed glimpses of glowing extracts from the chief executive's statement. But loyal though most shareholders are to Tiny Rowland they may share the feeling created by yesterday's preliminary report that all the good news is being given out in advance of the annual report in which the figures, since figures there must be, may tell a more sober story.

Impatient shareholders can console themselves with the yield which, on a prospective basis is approaching 7 per cent. Were it not for the yield, the prospective multiple of 8 would be looking even richer than it does.

COMMENT Kenneth Fleet

Go on up — the British Airways price is right

British Airways always looked like being the sternest test yet of the Government's privatization programme. Professionals in the investment world live daily with evaluations of risk relative to potential reward. Private shareholders are not in a position to make that crucial judgement easily.

There is no denying that the quality of the income stream which arises from flying people around the world is not in the same league as that from selling baked beans in a supermarket. Nor does it match that of a state utility like British Gas or British Telecom, which are in an almost unique position of being able to control their own trading environment to a high degree.

That is why the pricing of BA shares, the rights to a claim on that income stream, was so crucial. At 125p it was pitched cautiously, at the bottom end of City and international expectations. The price is right in every sense.

It properly takes account of the variability one has to expect from British Airways' earnings. Recent events have shown how sensitive they can be to modest changes in key factors like the price of oil, the dollar exchange rate and traffic on important routes like the North Atlantic. On the prospectus forecast of £145 million profits in the current year, the ratings (yield 6.8 per cent, price/earnings ratio 6.3 times) are hardly demanding.

The price is also right in the sense that it leaves the private investor very much

in with a chance of making a modest short-term profit on his investment. Or if he is so inclined, retaining in his portfolio a stock which should yield profitable trading opportunities.

Those inclined to take a longer view of BA as an investment can take comfort from several factors. Under Lord King and Colin Marshall, BA's senior management team has already demonstrated many qualities which are quite atypical of state industries. These will stand BA in good stead as it develops its prime operating asset, an extensive, perhaps unrivalled, route network based on Heathrow.

There is thus every chance that the knowledgeable private investor will read the prospectus (see pages 30-31) and turn out in sufficient force to trigger a clawback from the institutions. The clawback arises if the issue is subscribed three times.

Abroad, where a sizeable proportion of the issue will wind up, the demand should be healthy. For American investors, BA shares offer a highly attractive yield compared with the domestic alternatives. In Europe, BA's financial statistics look superior to those of the leading rivals and in terms of interest cover, return on shareholders' funds and return on revenue, BA leads the field.

Provided markets stay buoyant, the after-market in BA shares, while they are most attractive to traders in their party-paid form, should prove lively.

Time ripe for gilt auctions

Lower transaction costs and greater competition do generate more business, as economic theory suggests they should. Since Big Bang, customer turnover in the gilt-edged market has doubled from £14 billion a day to £28 billion. On top of that, turnover between the market-makers themselves is running at about £2 billion so, in total, turnover has more than trebled. In the 20 dealing days of November, gilt transactions amounted to £92.1 billion, compared with £42.7 billion on the 22 days of September — the last full month before the new market came into operation.

The Bank of England, Treasury and Stock Exchange must be gratified by the way this market has developed. It is a far cry from the "old days" (pre-October 27 last year) when two big jobbers, Wedd (now part of BZW) and Akroyd & Smithers (now part of Mercury), really made the market. In its wisdom, the Bank chose to divide the market-making among 30 market-makers with varying resources and skills, rather than a more formally structured system in which fewer, uniformly big players would compete but on a more secure basis. As the Bank insisted on demanding capital requirements, and commissions were bound to fall, it was commonly predicted that the number of market-makers, now 27, would drop as some found the market too hot, others

not sufficiently profitable. Some contraction is still likely, but later than at first thought. For two reasons. The huge increase in business which, as the figures quoted earlier show, is due in impressive measure to the business market-makers are doing among themselves. Secondly, the rewards of getting the market right, which can be considerable and the saving of a market-maker which might otherwise struggle.

The tremendous expansion in market liquidity, coupled with the fall in dealing costs, provides an ideal background to the Bank of England's planned experiment in auctioning gilts. The idea is to combine the traditional British method of selling Government stock through a "tap" with regular auctions of stock on the US pattern. The auctions would offer a fixed amount of stock in a pre-arranged time period whereas tap stocks would continue to be sold only in a rising market. By combining the two, the authorities hope to achieve some control over the timing of funding operations, through auctions, while minimizing their cost, through taps.

Discussions with the Gilt-Edged Market Makers Association continue about the form auctions might take. The market will want some guarantee that if it bids for stock at auction, it will not be swamped by a further offer within a specified time.

The Rank Organisation 1986 Results

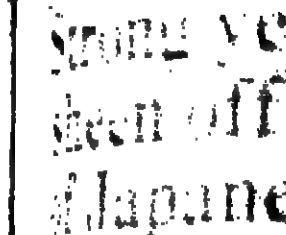
	1986	Increase on 1985
Profit before tax	£164.1m	+21%
Earnings per share	45.4p	+35%
Dividend	18.0p	+20%

The audited profit and loss accounts for the year ended 31st October 1986 is an extract from the Report & Accounts which will be filed with the Registrar of Companies upon which the auditors have given an unqualified report.

Another year of progress



The 1986 Report & Accounts will be posted to shareholders on 24th February 1987. Copies may be obtained from the Secretary, The Rank Organisation Plc, 6 Cornmarket Place, London W2 2EZ.



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Toy makers bouncing back

Two encouraging trends are bringing a gleam to toy makers' eyes on the eve of their annual fair at Earls Court

British toy makers, who are in their most buoyant, albeit still cautious, mood for five years or more, will today put the finishing touches to their trade displays for the annual British Toy and Hobby Fair which opens at Earls Court, London, tomorrow.

Last year there was little extra zip to sales until Christmas loomed: the time of year which still accounts for nearly 70 per cent of annual toy sales. Then peak demand was clear, according to the British Toy and Hobby Manufacturers Association.

While sales earlier in the year were probably up by at most a disappointing 2 per cent, the year could well have ended with minimum sales of £850 million, at retail values, a rise of about 4 per cent over the previous year, the association believes.

That means the industry has probably more or less held its own in volume sales despite a continued decline in the child population. It has led to two brighter forecasts from the association. One is that annual upturns in the birthrate since the beginning of 1983 could mean the industry is now seeing a bottoming out in the population decline of those aged up

to 14. In the last year for which statistics are available, 1985, the number of live births was up about 3 per cent on the year before.

The other expectation is that soaring competition among a new breed of toy retailers could prove not only a sharp spur to sales overall but also stimulate interest in toys throughout the year, so reducing the manufacturers' over-dependence on the last three months of the year.

Throughout this decade, the makers have badly needed such a fillip. The period started with a number of British manufacturers either being dismantled or disappearing for good. Among these were Lesney, the Matchbox die-cast toy maker, Dunbee Combe Marx (DCM), Airfix and, last year, Pedigree.

Some of the well-known brands then threatened have survived in various forms. The Meccano and Airfix brands are now in French hands. Matchbox ranges are still in production in Britain and Corgi, now privately owned, is a die-cast model range being produced in Swansea with such success that it has had to increase the workforce recently.

Hornby, best known for its



David Rurka of Toys 'R' Us: one of the big newcomers to shake up toy retailing in Britain

model railways and Scalextric car-racing tracks, is one of several other success stories among British manufacturers surviving a turbulent history since DCM went into receivership in 1980.

There was a management buyout from the DCM receivers but the toy market, as ever, is a fickle one, and it was just about to embrace the era of electronic toys and computer games. Sales of Hornby's traditional products were hit.

A new management team since 1983 has taken Hornby on to new and profitable tracks and now product ranges

like dolls, soft toys, vinyl animals and pre-school toys account for about 60 per cent of sales, some of them increasingly won in export markets.

Hornby went to the Unlisted Securities Market (USM) last month and is expected at the toy fair to unveil a range of new products.

Bluebird Toys, of Wiltshire, which was started in 1980 and has been on the USM for two years, has demonstrated strong and consistent growth with a product range that includes in chubby, colourful plastics the Big Yellow Teapot

and the A La Cart Kitchen. The American grip on the British market has grown strongly since the shakeout among British makers.

Among the leading companies with a US parentage are Hasbro (My Little Pony has been among its most successful toys), Mattel (Masters of the Universe figures), Kenner Parker (Care Bears, Trivial Pursuit) and Tonka (steel lorries).

Increased spending on television advertising — amounting to about £26 million a year — of toys is largely ascribed to

the American-based companies.

Another American invasion is helping to shake up the retailing of toys. The transatlantic children's superstores group Toys 'R' Us (TRU), headed in Britain by David Rurka, is dedicated to one-stop shopping for children and high toy sales throughout the year. It already has eight superstores open in Britain and aims to have about 40 within three years.

Now Boots is to launch a Children's World chain of about 40 superstores at edge-of-town sites, stocking toys among other children's goods. Woolworth is also planning 100 specialist children's shops, with the first openings targeted for the spring.

But these changes in retailing are sweeping away the era of 100 per cent mark-ups on toys. Profit margins can now be as low as 25 per cent and price competition among the manufacturers is intense.

But as the toy makers assemble at Earls Court, there is a most encouraging statistic for them to remember. It is now estimated that the child population should rise by 500,000 to 11 million by 1991 and to 12 million by the turn of the century.

All they have to do is strike the right fashionable toy at the right time.

Derek Harris
Industrial Editor

Oil rig drive to weed out drugs

By Anne Warden

Drug abuse in Britain's oil industry could be as high as 15 per cent in some places, according to tests done for several multinational companies.

Dr Ian Calder of London University, who organized the screening of 186 oil rig workers last summer, said that companies are having a drive to stamp out the menace, which can cost lives.

Dr Calder, a pathologist with 28 years' experience working with diving operations, believes high accident rates may be linked to drug abuse, though evidence beyond the circumstantial is difficult to get.

At the least, a drugs problem meant high costs for companies, he added. "It's several hundred pounds to take a chap off a rig."

Dr Calder said positive test results fell sharply once word of the crackdown got around. Ten percent of those tested were found to have traces of one or more of cannabis, amphetamines, barbiturates, cocaine, or heroin.

Cannabis was easy to detect whereas cocaine did not show up in the first tests. The next step is to close in further on detecting the use of heroin and cocaine, drugs that well-paid oilmen, forbidden alcohol for safety reasons, can afford, Dr Calder said.

The oil groups' drive has implications for other in-

dustries in Britain where life may depend on sobriety, such as nuclear power, Dr Calder added. The railways were doing drug tests in the United States. In Britain, tests were compulsory only for people working with lead.

The oil campaign has become possible only in the past two or three years with the development of urine analysis, a quicker and easier method than taking blood samples, Dr Calder said. The tests are voluntary.

He added: "If you take blood you are into a difficult ethical quagmire." Many of the workers on rigs in the North Sea were on foreign contracts, drawn up overseas, which may not be clear concerning the legality of blood tests. Many of the workers came from the United States, South America, Spain, and the Far East.

Urine was easier to obtain, especially where equipment had to be portable and laboratories were distant, as on rigs, Mr Calder said.

Companies such as Oceanac International Services of Aberdeen, which operates in 28 countries and has 1,300 employees in Britain, use a £3,500 device called the EMIT-st, developed by Syva, which is based in Palo Alto, California, and has a British subsidiary, Syva UK, at Maidenhead in Berkshire.

Strong yen takes sheen off export of Japanese cars

From Our Own Correspondent

The Japanese automobile manufacturing industry faces shifting fortunes in overseas sales because of the strong yen.

Conversely, the Japanese market particularly for foreign luxury cars which have become cheaper in yen terms, is predicted to grow, presenting enhanced prospects for companies such as BMW, which has a traditional hold on the luxury market here, and the chance for Austin Rover to open the door a little wider.

There is further potential penetration of the domestic market — by Hyundai of South Korea, a prospect that Honda, Toyota, Nissan, and the rest find uncomfortable.

The only foreign makers unlikely to benefit in the Japanese market in the longer term are the American companies since Detroit has still not come up with a car acceptable to Japanese tastes. Even so the United States should benefit this year from the rapidly-increasing Japanese investment in overseas automobile plants. The exchange-rate swing, a huge 40 per cent yen rise against the dollar in one year, has made American and European unit production costs much more economic than in Japan.

American automobile component makers are rubbing their hands in anticipation of being asked to supply the new Japanese car plants. And Japanese subcontractors could suffer heavily because of the switch.

In Britain, the Nissan car plant in Washington, Tyne and Wear is a taste of more to come, if Japanese car company executives are to be believed.

Underlying the new circumstances for the Japanese industry is this week's official decision to once again check total exports to the United States and Europe to avoid giving protectionists more ammunition to shoot down Japan because of its heavy trade surpluses.

The Japanese government announced that it was extending its self-imposed limit on automobile exports to the United States this year to 2.3 million units — the same as last year.

Industry officials also said

privately that car makers would be reducing their exports to the European Community, selling only six per cent more to Europe this year after a 10 per cent rise to an estimated record 1.10 million units last year.

Imports into the US automobile market account for more than a quarter of the total and Japanese vehicles take 20 per cent. In Britain, imports form 38.1 per cent of the market with about 10 per cent being Japanese. West Germany imports 30 per cent, 13.3 per cent being Japanese.

Japanese automobile exports last year fell about two per cent from 1985 to 6.61 million units, the first drop in four years. Output last year totalled 12.26 million units, a small but significant drop from a record 12.27 million in 1985.

Smaller Japanese companies such as Suzuki Motor, are less keen on sticking to the limits. Yesterday, Suzuki predicted a 5.3 per cent rise in its exports for 1987-88, starting April 1, to more than a million units.

Meanwhile, BMW Japan has shown the fastest growth of all its world subsidiaries. It sold 12,743 cars in the first 10 months of last year, an increase of nearly 30 per cent on the previous year.

Austin Rover Japan, a wholly-owned unit of Rover Group, hopes to find room on the bandwagon with predictions of doubled sales this year.

BASE LENDING RATES

ABN	11.00%
Adam & Company	11.00%
BCCI	11.00%
Citibank Savings	12.45%
Consolidated Crds	11.00%
Co-operative Bank	11.00%
C. Hoare & Co	11.00%
Hong Kong & Shanghai	11.00%
Lloyds Bank	11.00%
Nat Westminster	11.00%
Royal Bank of Scotland	11.00%
TSB	11.00%
Citibank NA	11.00%

† Mortgage Base Rate.

STANDARD SECURITIES PLC

Preliminary Announcement of

Results for the year ended 30th September 1986

	1986	1985
Rent and other income	£300	£300
Costs	3788	3475
Interest	(1199)	(832)
	(719)	(927)
Profit before tax	1870	1716
Tax	(505)	(698)
Profit after tax	1365	1018
Earnings per share	11.30p	8.82p
Net assets	26,745	25,022
Net assets per share	232p	217p

CHAIRMAN GERALD LEIGH, STATES:

Continuing satisfactory growth was achieved in 1986

During the year profits before taxation increased by 9% to £1.87m and net assets per share by 6.9% to 232p. The board have recommended an increase in dividend per ordinary share of 11.1% to 4.5p.

Earnings per share advanced by 28% to 11.30p.

We go a lot further east than Ongar.

Whether you catch the tube in Taipei, the bus in Bombay or stand on a station in Singapore they all have one thing in common. London Regional Transport.

Through our International subsidiary we have helped develop public transport systems in over 50 cities around the globe. We've reorganised the bus services in

Calcutta. We spent seven years helping design and construct an entire underground network in Caracas. We were even asked by the proud Texans for our advice on a new Dallas light railway system.

So no matter where in the world you travel you can always be sure of a few home comforts.



APPLICATIONS, DEALING AND INSTALMENT ARRANGEMENTS

Applications

Applications must be received by 10.00 a.m. on Friday, 6th February, 1987. In applying for shares, you will be treated as applying both on the terms and conditions set out below and on the basis of the full prospectus, which together govern your rights and obligations. If you need advice, you should consult your bank manager, stockbroker, solicitor, accountant or other professional adviser.

You are advised to read the full prospectus before completing and returning an application form.

Allocations

The basis of allocation of the shares is expected to be announced by 9.00 a.m. on Wednesday, 11th February, 1987. If you are successful, in whole or in part, you will be sent a renounceable letter of allocation for the shares allocated to you. If there is heavy demand for the shares, you may receive fewer shares than you apply for or none at all. If your application is not accepted or is only accepted in part, you will receive (without interest) all money paid on application or a refund cheque for the balance of the money paid on application.

The right is reserved to reject, in whole or in part, any application. In particular, but without limitation:-

- (i) Any application, which (alone or when taken in conjunction with any other application made by or on behalf of the same applicant or by or on behalf of a person who the Secretary of State has reasonable grounds for believing (a) is associated with that applicant, or (b) would, if that applicant held any shares, be or be taken to be interested in such shares for the purpose of the Articles of Association of the Company dealing with restrictions on substantial interests in shares) is for more than 72,000,000 shares (10 per cent. of the issued ordinary share capital of the Company) will be rejected to the extent that it exceeds that number. It may also be further scaled down.
- (ii) The Secretary of State reserves the right to reject or scale down applications for shares in which non-UK nationals would have any direct or indirect interest if, after consultation with the Directors, it appears that if such applications were to be accepted in accordance with the basis of allocation the Directors would expect to have to make an application to the Secretary of State as described under "Restrictions on Ownership of Shares" in Part III of the full prospectus.

Dealings

It is expected that dealings on The Stock Exchange will commence at 2.30 p.m. on Wednesday, 11th February, 1987. It is expected that renounceable letters of allocation will be sent to applicants allocated shares under the offer for sale on Monday, 16th February, 1987 and that initial dealings will be for deferred settlement on Wednesday, 18th February, 1987. Dealing instructions will be set out in the letter of allocation; applicants who deal before receipt of a letter of allocation will do so at their own risk.

Instalment arrangements

The offer for sale price is 125p per share, of which 65p is payable now and 60p by no later than 3.00 p.m. on Tuesday, 18th August, 1987.

If you do not pay the final instalment in respect of any share, the Secretary of State could resell that share or take proceedings to recover the final instalment. In any event, you would lose your right to all extra shares under the loyalty bonus arrangements described below. In the case of a resale of a share, you would be paid a sum equal to the amount of the first instalment paid for that share without interest, less any loss (including expenses) which the Secretary of State may have suffered as a result of your failure to pay. The Secretary of State may, at his discretion, accept late payment of the final instalment and, if he does so, is entitled to demand interest on the overdue amount.

An instalment reminder will be sent to your address on the register. You should therefore promptly notify any change of address, following the instructions set out on the letters of allocation and on the interim certificates.

AVAILABILITY OF THE FULL PROSPECTUS

Copies of the full prospectus are available until the offer for sale closes at all UK branches of Lloyds Bank Plc, all branches of Bank of Ireland in Northern Ireland and certain principal branches of Bank of Scotland, Barclays Bank PLC and National Westminster Bank PLC, at the offices of the brokers to the offer and regional coordinators and from the registered office of the Company. The full prospectus has been published in the Financial Times and the Daily Telegraph on Friday, 30th January, 1987.

LOYALTY BONUS ARRANGEMENTS

Individuals who continue to hold shares bought in the offer for sale until 3.00 p.m. on 28th February, 1990 will receive from HM Government a bonus of one free share for every ten shares so held, subject as provided below. The maximum number of additional shares you can receive is 400. Fractions of shares will be ignored. The share bonus does not apply to shares bought after the offer for sale.

Eligibility

To be eligible for the loyalty share bonus, you must be an individual investing solely for your own benefit (or investing jointly with not more than three others who must be individuals, solely for the benefit of one or more of you). Applications made by individuals for the benefit of children will also qualify for the share bonus. Companies, partnerships, firms, trusts, associations and clubs are not eligible, but they may apply as nominees for eligible individuals or as plan managers of personal equity plans jointly with eligible plan investors.

If you are an eligible individual or applying on behalf of an individual who is eligible for the share bonus, you should write YES in Box 4 of the public application form.

Applications by nominees

Nominees (including personal equity plan managers) may only receive the share bonus on behalf of eligible individuals and, in such a case, the nominee (or plan manager) must apply jointly on a single public application form together with no more than three such individuals by entering the nominee's (or the plan manager's) own name in Box 1 of the application form and the name(s) of such individual(s) in Box 8. The nominee (or plan manager) should sign Box 6 of the application form. Box 8 should be signed by the individual(s), or (if he is duly authorised to do so) by the nominee (or plan manager) on behalf of such individual(s), but power(s) of attorney must be enclosed for inspection. A nominee means a person who retains no beneficial interest in the shares nor any right to acquire such an interest from the beneficial owner(s).

RESTRICTIONS ON OWNERSHIP OF SHARES

Rights of British Airways to operate, in particular on international routes, could be withdrawn if the Company ceased to be substantially owned and effectively controlled by UK nationals. Accordingly, the Articles of Association contain powers which may be used to limit the number or voting rights of shares in which non-UK nationals own interests or, if necessary, to require their compulsory disposal, or to restrict the transferability of shares.

These powers include the power to impose an overall limit of not less than 25 per cent. on the number of shares ("Relevant Shares") in which non-UK nationals have any direct or indirect interest, as widely defined in the Articles. They are, however, only exercisable if, on the application of the Directors, the Secretary of State determines that it is necessary to use such powers to protect BA's operating rights because action affecting such rights has occurred or is contemplated, threatened or intended or may occur because of the ownership or control of the Company by non-UK nationals or because of the aggregate number of Relevant Shares.

In the absence of intervention from a foreign government or large interests of single or associated non-UK nationals, the Directors would not generally expect to have to apply to the Secretary of State unless the proportion of Relevant Shares approached 35 per cent. or to have to set a limit on Relevant Shares below that level, although no assurance can be given that this would be the case.

The Articles also restrict, until 31st January, 1992, the maximum proportion of the Company's issued share capital in which any person (including connected persons) may be interested to 15 per cent.

No person receiving a copy of this document and/or an application form in any territory other than the United Kingdom, the Channel Islands or the Isle of Man may treat the same as constituting an invitation or offer to him, nor should he in any event use such application form, unless in the relevant territory such an invitation and offer could lawfully be made to him without compliance with any unfulfilled registration and other legal requirements. It is the responsibility of any person outside the United Kingdom, the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man receiving a copy of this document and/or an application form wishing to make an application hereunder to satisfy himself as to full observance of the laws of the relevant territory in connection therewith, including the obtaining of any governmental or other consents and compliance with other necessary formalities, and to pay any transfer or other taxes required to be paid in such territory in respect of the shares acquired by him under the offer for sale.

The following information must be read in conjunction with the full prospectus dated 27th January, 1987, which alone comprises approved Listing Particulars relating to British Airways Plc from which it is derived.



BRITISH AIRWAYS Plc

OFFER FOR SALE BY HILL SAMUEL & CO. LIMITED ON BEHALF OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR TRANSPORT

Under the offer for sale in the United Kingdom and separate offerings in the United States, Canada, Japan and Switzerland up to 720,200,000 Ordinary shares of 25p each are being offered at 125p per share of which 65p is payable now and 60p is payable on 18th August, 1987.

The Council of The Stock Exchange has authorised the issue of this document under section 144(1)(b) of the Financial Services Act 1986, which enables it to do so without approving the contents hereof.
Application has been made to the Council of The Stock Exchange for the whole of the issued share capital of the Company to be admitted to the Official List.

TIMETABLE

Completed application forms to be received by	10.00 a.m. on Friday, 6th February, 1987
Basis of allocation expected to be announced by	9.00 a.m. on Wednesday, 11th February, 1987
Dealings expected to commence in London at	2.30 p.m. on Wednesday, 11th February, 1987
Despatch of renounceable letters of allocation expected on	Monday, 16th February, 1987
Last date for registration of renunciation	Friday, 3rd April, 1987
Payment of final instalment	Tuesday, 18th August, 1987

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

1. Acceptance of applications will be conditional on (i) the admission of the whole of the issued share capital of the Company to the Official List of The Stock Exchange becoming effective not later than 25th February, 1987; and (ii) the provisions relating to termination of the UK Underwriting Agreement referred to in section I of "General Information" in Part VI of the full prospectus dated 27th January, 1987 comprising the listing particulars relating to British Airways Plc (the "Prospectus") not being implemented. Application money will be returned (without interest) if either of these conditions is not satisfied and, in the meantime, if presented for payment, will be kept by a receiving bank in a separate account. Rights are reserved for the Secretary of State and his agents to present for payment and otherwise process all cheques and bankers' drafts received and to have full access to all information relating to, or deriving from, such cheques, bankers' drafts and the processing thereof. The right is also reserved to treat as valid any application not in all respects completed in accordance with the instructions accompanying the relevant application form. Words and expressions defined in the Prospectus have the same meanings in these terms and conditions, unless the context otherwise requires.
2. If you are eligible for the loyalty share bonus, your entitlement will be governed by the terms, and subject to the conditions, set out under "Loyalty Bonus Arrangements" in Part VII of the Prospectus. If you apply on a public application form and you do not complete Box 4 of that application form, you will not be entitled to the share bonus.
3. By completing and delivering an application form, you:-
 - (a) offer to purchase from the Secretary of State the number of Ordinary shares specified in your application form (or such smaller number for which the application is accepted) on the terms of, and subject to the conditions set out in, the Prospectus and the instalment agreement (and, in due course, subject to the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the Company) and agree to become a party to and be bound by all relevant provisions of the instalment agreement;
 - (b) agree as a collateral contract between you and the Secretary of State which will become binding on posting to or (in the case of delivery in any other manner) receipt by a receiving bank of your application and in consideration of the Secretary of State agreeing that he will not, prior to 26th February, 1987, offer any of the Ordinary shares to any person other than by means of one of the procedures referred to in the Prospectus, that your application cannot be revoked prior to 26th February, 1987;
 - (c) warrant that your remittance will be honoured on first presentation and agree that any letter of allocation and any money returnable may be held pending clearance of your payment;
 - (d) warrant that:-
 - (i) (if this application is made for your own benefit) no other application is being made for your benefit by you or by anyone applying as your agent or, so far as you are aware, by any other person;
 - (ii) (if the application is made by you as agent for or for the benefit of another person) no other application as agent for or for the benefit of that person is being made by you or, so far as you are aware, by that person or by any other person for the benefit of that person; and
 - (iii) if you sign the application form purporting to be the agent for someone else, you have due authority to do so on behalf of that other person;
 - (e) agree that, in respect of those Ordinary shares for which your application has been received and processed and is not rejected, acceptance of your application shall be constituted, at the election of the Secretary of State, either (i) by notification to The Stock Exchange of the basis of allocation (in which case such acceptance shall be on that basis) or (ii) by notification of acceptance thereof to the relevant receiving bank;
 - (f) authorise the relevant receiving bank and the Custodian Bank to send a letter of allocation for the number of Ordinary shares for which your application is accepted and/or a cheque for any money returnable by post at your risk to the address of the person named in Box 1 of the application form and to procure that such name (and the name(s) of any other joint applicant(s)) is placed on the register of holders of interim rights in respect of such Ordinary shares the entitlement to which has not been effectively renounced and thereafter, subject to payment of any applicable stamp duty or tax other than UK stamp duty or stamp duty reserve tax, to procure that your name (and the name(s) of any other joint applicant(s)) is placed on the register of members of the Company in respect of such Ordinary shares the entitlement to which is evidenced by interim certificates and the right to which has not been effectively

transferred (references to rights being effectively renounced meaning the renouncee(s) being registered by a receiving bank in relation to such rights).

- (g) agree that all documents in connection with the loyalty bonus arrangements may be sent by post at the risk of the person named in Box 1 of the application form to the address set out therein or such other address as may from time to time appear in the register of holders of interim rights or the register of members of the Company against the name of such person;
 - (h) agree that the time of payment by you shall be of the essence of each contract constituted by acceptance of your application and undertake to pay the final instalment by 18th August, 1987 for the Ordinary shares in respect of which your application is accepted and the right to which has not been effectively renounced or transferred in accordance with the instalment agreement by you prior to that time and date;
 - (i) agree that, without prejudice to any other rights to which you may be entitled, you will not be entitled to exercise any remedy of rescission for innocent misrepresentation at any time after acceptance of your application;
 - (j) declare that you are not a US person or Canadian resident and you are not applying on behalf of any such person, "US person" having the meaning set out in section C of Part VIII of the Prospectus;
 - (k) (if you complete Box 4 to apply for the loyalty share bonus) thereby warrant that you are eligible to do so in accordance with the provisions set out under "Loyalty Bonus Arrangements" in Part VII of the Prospectus;
 - (l) agree that, if you delete or amend the declaration in Box 5 of the application form, you declare that, if your application is successful, any shares for which it is accepted will be "Relevant Shares" as defined in section B of "General Information" in Part VI of the Prospectus, being "Foreign Interest Shares" as referred to on the application form;
 - (m) confirm that, in making your application, you are not relying on any information or representation in relation to or affecting British Airways Plc and its subsidiaries or the Combined Offer other than information and representations contained in the Prospectus or in the mini prospectus published in connection with the offer for sale taken together with the Prospectus (the "Prospectuses"), and accordingly you agree that neither the Secretary of State, the Company, any of the Directors, the advisers of any of them or any other person acting on behalf of any of them in relation to the Prospectuses or any part thereof shall have any liability for any information or representation other than as aforesaid; and
 - (n) agree that such application form is addressed to the Secretary of State, Hill Samuel & Co. Limited, Lloyds Bank Plc and the Company.
4. The instalment agreement provides that any contract by acceptance (whether in whole or in part) of any application shall constitute a separate contract for the purchase of each of the shares agreed to be sold, and these terms and conditions shall be construed accordingly.
5. All applications, acceptances of applications and contracts resulting therefrom under the offer for sale shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of England.

NOTES ON HOW TO COMPLETE THE PUBLIC APPLICATION FORM

1. Put in Box 1 your full name and address in block capitals. ONLY ONE APPLICATION MAY BE MADE FOR THE BENEFIT OF ANY PERSON.

Applications may only be made by persons over 18. But an adult may apply for the benefit of a child. To do this, you should put your own name in Box 1 and, after your surname, write "etc" followed by the full names of the child and the child's date of birth. You are not thereby precluded from making a single application for your own benefit.

If you wish to apply for the benefit of another adult(s) and for that adult(s) to be entitled to the loyalty share bonus, follow the procedure set out in Note 8.

2. Put in Box 2 (in figures) the number of shares for which you are applying. You may only apply for one of the numbers of shares indicated below. Applications for any other number of shares will be rejected.

Number of shares you are applying for	Amount you pay now at 65p per share	Your total investment at 125p per share
400	£260	£500
500	£325	£625
600	£390	£750
700	£455	£875
800	£520	£1,000
900	£585	£1,125
1,000	£650	£1,250
1,500	£975	£1,875
2,000	£1,300	£2,500
2,500	£1,625	£3,125
3,000	£1,950	£3,750
3,500	£2,275	£4,375
4,000	£2,600	£5,000
4,500	£2,925	£5,625
5,000	£3,250	£6,250

Above 5,000 shares, applications must be in the following denominations:

Applications	Multiples of
5,000 to 10,000 shares	1,000 shares
10,000 to 50,000 shares	5,000 shares
50,000 to 100,000 shares	10,000 shares
over 100,000 shares	50,000 shares

3. Using the middle column of the table above, put in Box 3 (in figures) the amount you pay now.

Payment is in two instalments. The final instalment of 60p per share is payable by 3.00 p.m. on 18th August, 1987. You will be sent a reminder about the final instalment before it becomes due.

4. If you are an eligible individual or applying on behalf of an individual who is eligible for the loyalty share bonus, write YES in Box 4. If you are in any doubt about whether you can complete Box 4, read the section "Loyalty Bonus Arrangements" in Part VII of the Prospectus.

Nationality declaration

If you, each joint applicant and any individual for whose benefit you are applying are British citizens, you can make the declaration in Box 5.

If you are in any doubt about whether you can make this declaration or you are unable to do so, you should read the explanation on the lower part of the application form.

Sign the form in Box 6 and date it.

Only the applicant may sign unless another person has been duly authorised by the applicant and encloses his power of attorney.

A corporation must sign under the hand of a duly authorised official, whose representative capacity must be stated.

WARNING

Only one application may be made for the benefit of any person. Criminal proceedings may be instituted against anyone knowingly making or authorising more than one application for the benefit of any person.

7. Put in Box 7 where indicated a cheque for the amount you have entered in Box 3. Your cheque must be made payable to "BA Share Offer" and crossed "Not Negotiable".

Your payment must relate solely to this application. No receipt will be issued.

Your cheque must be drawn in sterling on an account at a bank branch in the United Kingdom, the Channel Islands or the Isle of Man and must bear a United Kingdom bank sort code number in the top right hand corner.

An application may be accompanied by a cheque drawn by someone other than the applicant(s), but any moneys returned will be sent by cheque crossed "Not Negotiable - A/C payee only" in favour of the applicant(s).

Joint applications

You may apply jointly with up to three other people, provided each applicant is aged 18 or over. They should complete and sign Box 8.

Power(s) of attorney must be enclosed if anyone is signing on behalf of any joint applicant(s).

Dear Shareholders,

Your Company has had a first-rate year and growth continues. Earnings per share are 25.5 pence on increased share capital, and profit before tax is over £165 million.

I hope that, after you have glanced at my brief survey of new projects, you will go on to read the general Review of Operations.

In October 1986, we made a decision to enter the oil business in the U.S.A. by the acquisition of six hundred producing oil and gas fields, which were bought for about U.S. \$170 million from Atlantic Richfield as a joint venture with Mr Robert Anderson. Lonrho believes this will be an excellent base for a modern oil producing and trading company free of unproductive overheads. The new company, which has its headquarters in the United States, is already operating profitably under the experienced leadership of Mr Anderson.

As I said last year, we intend to strengthen links with Japan. We have now signed a formal co-operation agreement which includes a cross-holding of shares with the major Japanese trading company, Nissho-Iwai. Lonrho has worked with Nissho-Iwai on several large projects in Africa and so we feel confident that this closer association will give us opportunities to develop in the Pacific Basin.

Application is being made to obtain a listing on the Tokyo Stock Exchange in the near future, which will further expand the Group's presence in the Far East.



Lonrho headquarters — Cheapside House, London

Agricultural interests in Africa — already extensive — were expanded this year when we were invited to re-commission several large and fertile estates in Mozambique, which Lonrho now owns and manages in partnership with Government. The development, which was initiated by the late President Samora Machel, was productive from the start and we are increasing the acreages. Companies in the African continent have produced and traded extremely well, although some had adverse exchange rates with a consequent effect on sterling profits.

Shareholders may be surprised to hear that, with this year's expansion, Lonrho is now one of the largest beef-ranching companies in the world, with a herd of about 120,000 head grazing on two million acres.

During the year, by agreement with the innovative Mr Eddie Shah, Lonrho took a 78 per cent interest in Britain's first colour national newspaper, "TODAY". This will sustain the paper as it continues to build up a regular readership by constant improvement.

Your Company's whisky division has the second largest share of the United Kingdom market, with three brands in the Top Ten. Whyte & Mackay "Special", and added this year. The Claymores and the world-renowned Haig. Underlying financial strength has been further improved by a well supported issue of U.S. \$100 million convertible bonds at 4.75 per cent in May and a recent issue of U.S. \$100 million bonds at 8 per cent. These issues, which do not affect Shareholders' earnings or rights, help to underwrite expansion.

And expand we will — with your support and the advice and enthusiasm of Lonrho's experienced management team. We used to be a small Company and we try to keep our original foraging spirit of enterprise.

To everybody working for Lonrho, I express the Board's warm thanks and appreciation for their contribution to the security and growth of the Company, which has increased a thousandfold in the last twenty-five years — despite the odd problem!

The Group has started the new financial year well, although it is too early to make a forecast. To mark the end of this year we are issuing a 1 for 10 bonus share.

Yours sincerely,
Terry Rowland

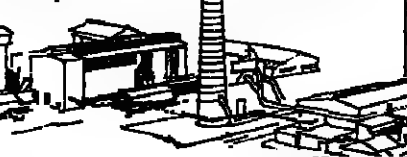
The following is taken from the Review of Operations for the year ended 30 September 1986

MINING AND REFINING

The recent upsurge in gold and especially in platinum prices has boosted the Group's precious metal mining profits. Production has increased to over 250,000 ounces of refined platinum group metals. Platinum production is planned to expand substantially over the next few years to take output to 500,000 ounces annually.

Gold production from the Group's Zimbabwean mines reached another all-time high. Ashanti output was affected by a strike earlier in the year, now amicably settled. Good progress has been made with the U.S. \$160 million programme to expand Ashanti production by 50%.

Shortly before the year end the first reef development at the important Erdfeld mine was driven, revealing gold values above expectations. Production will start later this year and build up to an

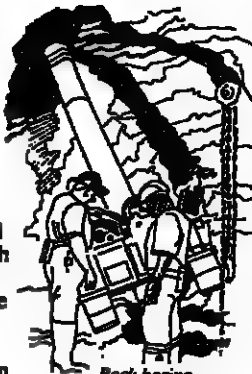


Base metal refinery and smelting plant — Western Platinum

Lonrho has had a first-rate year and growth continues. Profit before tax is now over £165 million

R W Rowland, Chief Executive

eventual annual milling rate of 2.7 million tonnes of ore, yielding over 400,000 ounces of gold. We hold 36% of Eastern Gold Holdings, which owns the mine, with most of the balance being owned by the Anglo American group of companies.



Rock boring equipment, George Campbell Shaft, Ashanti, Ghana

AGRICULTURE

The Group's seven sugar estates reported record overall profits with major contributions from the mills in Swaziland and Mauritius. Sugar production has increased to about 450,000 tonnes.

In Kenya, profits from crops, produced by The East African Tanning Extract Company, were significantly increased.

In Zambia, Kalangwa Estates has had an exceptionally successful year in production of tobacco, maize, wheat, poultry and pigs.

In Malawi, a record 4.9 million kilograms of tea was harvested during 1986, but turnover was down due to lower tea prices. A healthy profit was earned from other crops, particularly coffee, where production was up at 260 tonnes.

In Nigeria, John Holt has branched out into food farming for the first time, with a large poultry complex.

Demand for high quality arabica coffee in Zimbabwe was strong during the year, with good prices being obtained. Sales of beef cattle amounted to 10,000 head.

The Group's recently re-acquired Mufindi Tea Estates in Tanzania have produced 1.3 million kilograms of tea, which is their second best ever year. In Mozambique, the Group, in partnership with Government, now has 3,000 hectares under cultivation.



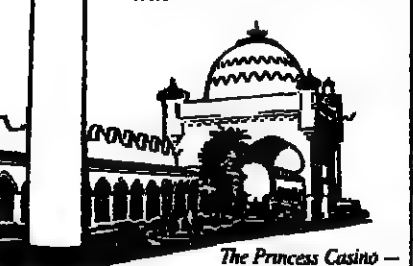
Tea picking — Mufindi Tea Co, Tanzania

HOTELS AND CASINOS

In Bermuda the major refurbishment programme for the Princess hotels continued. Occupancy levels overall increased, despite the Southampton Princess being closed for renovations during part of the year.

In Mexico the Acapulco Princess is reporting substantially improved reservations for the current winter season compared to last year, which was affected by the major earthquake in September 1985 although no damage was caused to the Princess hotels or their surroundings.

Construction began on a new 600 room luxury resort hotel in Scottsdale near Phoenix, Arizona in co-operation with the American PGA, who are building two championship golf courses on adjacent land.



The Princess Casino — Bahamas

In the United Kingdom the Metropole Hotel Group has reported record profits at all five of its hotels despite the reduction in overseas visitors. At the Birmingham Metropole occupancy was at its highest level ever and the new Kings Suite conference facilities were opened in May. Extensive work has been completed at the Brighton Metropole and a new swimming pool has been added.

The Metropole Hotel Group held 3,800 conferences during the year maintaining its position as the leading exhibition and conference group.

The Stanhope Apartments in Park Lane were opened in May, providing superbly

furnished flats and a penthouse for short-term letting, which are undoubtedly London's best.

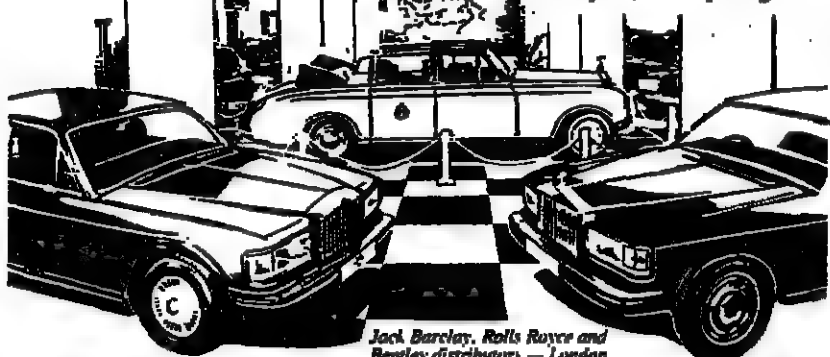
The returns of the Casino division have been lower due to a fall in visitors from overseas, which seems to be over judging by the 1987 first quarter's results. Overseas, the Bahamas casino was well attended and the flight programme for visitors to the casino was expanded.

In Kenya the newly acquired Mount Kenya Safari Club, one of the most

Seat Concessionaires (UK) now has 113 franchised dealers throughout the country and is the fastest growing motor franchise ever in the United Kingdom.

Western Machinery is firmly established as the market leader in baler and forage harvesting machinery. Zimoco, the Group's Mercedes distributor in Zimbabwe, sold nearly 600 vehicles during the year, making it the third largest distributor of Mercedes vehicles in Africa.

In Kenya, the Motor Mart Group moved to better premises in Nairobi. We now have an ideal location to display such good products as Toyota, Massey Ferguson,

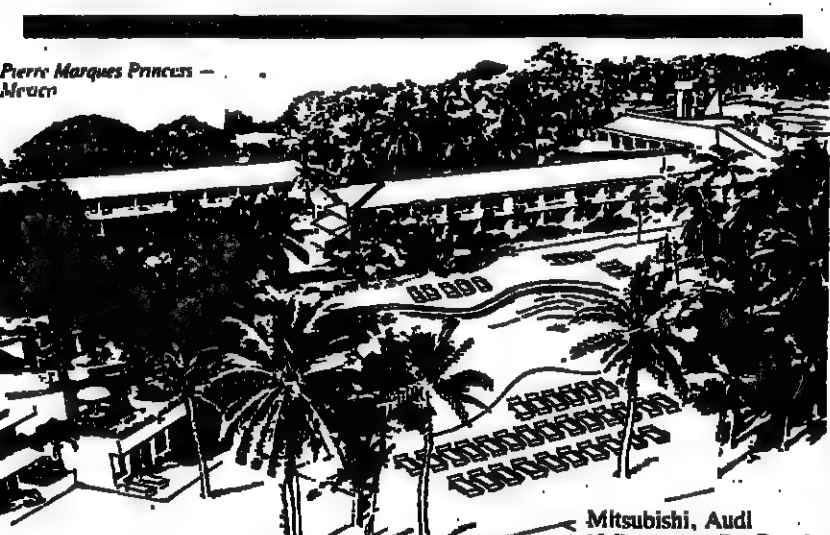


Jack Barclay, Rolls Royce and Bentley distributors — London

1986 AT A GLANCE

	1986	1985
Turnover	£2,651m	£2,586m
Profit before tax	£165.1m	£158.3m
Profit attributable to shareholders	£76.5m	£67.6m
Earnings per share	25.5p	23.3p
Dividends per share	12.0p	10.9p
Cash balances	£220m	£211m

Earnings and dividends per share for 1985 have been adjusted for the capitalisation issue in 1986. The twenty-eighth Annual General Meeting of Lonrho Plc will be held at the Great Room, Grosvenor House, Park Lane, London, W.1. on Thursday, 19th March, 1987 at 11.30 a.m.



luxurious safari lodges in the world, realised a good profit in its first full year of ownership.

MOTOR DISTRIBUTION

In spite of intense competition during the year, the Audi Volkswagen Group's market share at 6% is again better than last year. V.A.G (UK) continues to be the leading importer of European cars in the United Kingdom.

During the year the new Audi 80 range was introduced incorporating the unique Procon 10 safety system, which has received tremendous press comment. MAN-VW is now the fastest growing truck company in the British market, which has become the largest MAN export market in the world.

Dutton-Forsyth Motors is one of Jaguar's leading distributors with six outlets. The introduction of the new XJ40 augurs well for a successful future.

Jack Barclay, the world's best known Rolls Royce dealer, again did well with its exquisite motor cars.



Deutz-Fahr tractors distributed by Warceare

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evening newspaper. Significant circulation increases have also been achieved.

Scottish & Universal Newspapers consolidated its position as the paramount weekly newspaper group in Scotland.

The large number of well publicised takeovers and mergers during the year has benefited Greenaway-Harrison, a well organised high security printer.

Greenaway-Harrison also made significant advances in their specialist services to banks and financial institutions.

Harrison & Sons marked its 52nd year of holding, uninterrupted, the British Post Office stamp printing contract.

The print centres of Holmes McDougall in Edinburgh, Glasgow and Norwich performed well throughout the year. Harrison Decorative Papers consolidated and strengthened its position as the largest United Kingdom producer of printed decorative papers to the furniture industry.

The majority of the companies in the Firstel Group improved their results over last year.

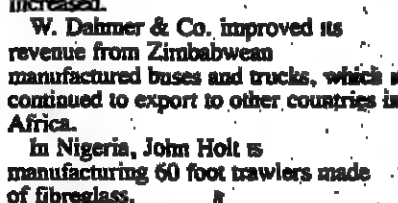
Firstel Metal Products earned record sales and profits. Firstel acquired Bromford Cold Mill during the year to complement its range of steels in the cold rolled strip market. All the stockholding companies performed well.

Charles Roberts Engineering more than doubled its profits this year. The Lightfoot Refrigeration Company was awarded a major contract from a Japanese shipyard and also installed the new ice rink at the Birmingham National Exhibition Centre for the Sport Aid spectacular.

In Zambia, the President of the Republic opened a prestigious housing project completed by the Group's construction company, Delkams. Delkams also erected the Group's cotton ginner plant in Mumbwa in record time. Vitrex Paints was able to secure valuable imported raw materials for its paint production. Efforts to increase exports to other tropical countries have increased.

W. Dahmer & Co. improved its revenue from Zimbabwean manufactured buses and trucks, which it continued to export to other countries in Africa.

In Nigeria, John Holt is manufacturing 60 foot trawlers made of fibreglass.



Container crane in operation

Kilme & Nagel's container terminal at the port of Rotterdam successfully celebrated its first year of operation. In Canada Kilme & Nagel has acquired the lease of a warehouse in Vancouver and a second warehouse is being constructed in Montreal.

In addition to its forwarding activities, the Kilme & Nagel group also carries out warehousing, port handling, industrial packaging, insurance brokerage and travel business in a number of countries.

Global turnover of Kilme & Nagel, which Lonrho owns in direct partnership with Mr Klaus Kilme, exceeds DM 4.9 billion and profits have almost doubled in the last five years.

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Whyte & Mackay "Special" and other company brands have increased sales volumes, especially in Europe. The Group continues to operate 19 breweries in partnership with African Governments and municipalities, producing traditional high protein beer. In Zambia, the Coca-Cola bottling company is, as ever, very busy. The Group also operates three Pepsi Cola bottling plants in Nigeria.

TEXTILES

Lonrho Textiles showed significantly increased profits over last year. Brenfords in particular traded very strongly during a year in which it was proud to be granted a Royal Warrant as a supplier to Her Majesty the Queen.

Our Lancashire based David Whitehead mills had an excellent year. John Barnes in Preston has a healthy order book for industrial knitted fabric. Besco Baron in Rochdale improved its range of domestic textiles.

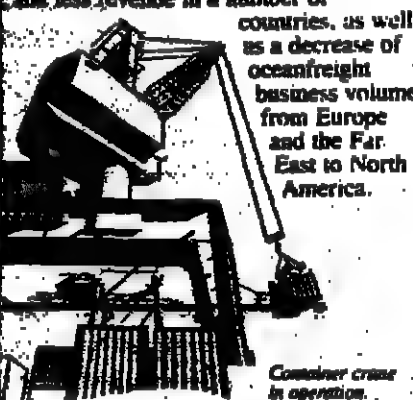
David Whitehead in Malawi had a disappointing year, caused by large volumes of imported second hand clothing. There are now Government restrictions on such imports.

In Zimbabwe, David Whitehead won the Exporter of the Year trophy for the second successive year, recording a 144% increase in export sales compared to last year.

A new cotton ginner at Mumbwa in Zambia was commissioned during the year and has ginned 9,000 tons of seed cotton since the project started up in November 1985.

FREIGHT

The Kilme & Nagel group of companies again showed a satisfactory performance, although it was affected by the devaluation of the U.S. Dollar against European currencies. This resulted in lower commission income and less revenue in a number of countries, as well as a decrease of oceanfreight business volume from Europe and the Far East to North America.



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FINANCE AND GENERAL TRADE

Baumann Hinde, the Group's cotton merchanting company, traded well during a period of rapidly declining prices. In February, the company was awarded a consultancy marketing contract by the Zimbabwe Government.

The F.H. Group has confirmed its position as the leading supplier of kitchens and bathrooms in the United Kingdom with the acquisition of Fourways.

The Group's insurance division, F. E. Wright, achieved a modest increase in profitability despite greatly increased costs.

John Holt's confirming operations were boosted by a large pharmaceutical contract with the Nigerian Government during the year.

The Group's property investment portfolio was substantially reduced during the year by the sale of a large Colfaxman III — one of the Group's operated aircraft.



portion of its residential and commercial properties for £53 million. In December 1986 the freehold of Lonrho's headquarters, located in a prime open position in Cheapside directly opposite St. Paul's Cathedral, was purchased.

Southern Watch & Clock Supplies traded satisfactorily in 1986 and profitability has been maintained.

Turnpan, which is the largest supplier in Zambia of mining equipment and spare parts to the copper mines in Zambia, performed exceptionally well.

Lonrho continue to represent substantial American aircraft manufacturers in a number of countries in Africa, including Beechcraft, which is our most successful agency, and Boeing. In addition, the Group owns about 30 hard working aircraft.

The text is taken from the Chief Executive's Statement and Review of Operations contained in the Report and Accounts for the year ended 30 September, 1986 which will be published in late February. Copies will be available from the Secretary, Lonrho Plc, Cheapside House, 138 Cheapside, London, EC2V 6BL.

LONRHO

Lonrho Plc, Cheapside House, 138 Cheapside, London, EC2V 6BL

Portfolio Gold

From your portfolio card check your eight share price movements, on this page only. Add them up to give you your overall total and check this against the daily dividend figure. If it matches, you have won outright or a share of the total daily prize money stated. If you are a winner follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. You must always have your card available when claiming. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

No.	Company	Group	Gain or Loss
1	Livermore (Wholesale)	Building Roads	
2	Regal	Property	
3	Trinity Int	Newspaper/Pubs	
4	Nichols (UN) (Vinson)	Food	
5	Coventry	Textiles	
6	Thomas TV	Cinema, TV	
7	Combined English	Drapery/Stores	
8	Marting	Industrials L-R	
9	Int Thomson	Newspaper/Pubs	
10	Rick	Electricals	
11	Reamers	Industrials L-R	
12	Morgan Grenfell	Banks/Discount	
13	Stetson	Industrials S-Z	
14	Scott Greenham	Industrials S-Z	
15	Memor	Electricals	
16	Linnard	Industrials L-R	
17	Fin	Building Roads	
18	Leeds (V2)	Food	
19	Whitson	Industrials S-Z	
20	Fitch Design	Paper/Print/Adv	
21	RSS Group	Industrials A-D	
22	Office Elect Mach	Industrials L-R	
23	Ultramar	Oil	
24	Colliers	Food	
25	TV-AM	Cinema, TV	
26	Hewitt (J)	Industrials E-K	
27	Chamberlain Ph	Industrials A-D	
28	Glyved	Industrials E-K	
29	Miles 33	Electricals	
30	Freemantle	Bank/Discount	
31	Reamers	Food	
32	United	Electricals	
33	Central TV	Cinema, TV	
34	General Motor	Motor/Aircraft	
35	Bentley	Industrials A-D	
36	David Eas	Industrials A-D	
37	UK Land	Property	
38	Blackwell Johnson	Building Roads	
39	Northampton Brick	Building Roads	
40	APV	Industrials A-D	
41	Imu Walker	Leisure	
42	Geard Nat	Banks/Discount	
43	Lea	Motor/Aircraft	
44	Microgen	Electricals	

Please take into account any minus signs

Weekly Dividend
Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £8.00 in tomorrow's newspaper.

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN

BRITISH FUNDS			
1986	High	Low	Stock

SHORTS (Under Five Years)			
1986	High	Low	Stock

FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS			
1986	High	Low	Stock

OVER FIFTEEN YEARS			
1986	High	Low	Stock

UNDATED			
1986	High	Low	Stock

INDEX-LINKED			
1986	High	Low	Stock

BANKS DISCOUNT HP			
1986	High	Low	Stock

STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

Equities in retreat

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began Monday. Dealings end February 6. Settlement day February 9. Settlement day February 16.
Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days.

Prices are recorded at 5pm. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close and may differ from changes calculated by comparing 5pm prices, published the previous day. Where one price is quoted, it is a middle price. Changes, yields and price earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

1986	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%

BREWERIES						
1986	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%

BUILDINGS AND ROADS						
1986	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%

FINANCE AND LAND						
1986	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%

FOODS						
1986	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%

CHEMICALS, PLASTICS						
1986	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%

CINEMAS AND TV						
1986	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%

DRAPERY AND STORES						
1986	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%

ELECTRICALS						
1986	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%

E-K						
1986	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%

L-R						
1986	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%

S-Z						
1986	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%

HOTELS AND CATERERS						
1986	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%

INDUSTRIALS A-D						
1986	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%

NEWSPAPERS AND PUBLISHERS						
1986	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%

OIL						
1986	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%

TOEACCS						
1986	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%

OVERSEAS TRADERS						
1986	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%

INSURANCE						
1986	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%

LEISURE						
1986	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%

MINING						
1986	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%

PROPERTY						
1986	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%

SHIPPING						
1986	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%

SHOES AND LEATHER						
1986	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%

TEXTILES						
1986	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%

MOTORS AND AIRCRAFT						
1986	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%

TOEACCS						
1986	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%

Portfolio Gold

DAILY DIVIDEND
£12.600

Claims required for
+44 points

Claimants should ring 0254-53272

1986	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%

OVERSEAS TRADERS						
1986	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%

INSURANCE						
1986	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%

LEISURE						
1986	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%

MINING						
1986	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%

PROPERTY						
1986	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%

SHIPPING						
1986	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%

SHOES AND LEATHER						
1986	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%

TEXTILES						
1986	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%

4/19/80 1.50

[illegible]

UNLISTED SECURITIES

[illegible]

ESTMENT TRUSTS

[illegible]

ENTREPRENEURS

YOUR OWN BUSINESS

Top pieman's recipe for success

Entrepreneurs who have made good, including Bob Payton of the Chicago Pizza Pie Factory and Dr Leah Hertz of the Crochetta fashion empire, will be dispensing their secrets of success with would-be businessmen in London next week.

The occasion is a two-day "entrepreneurs exhibition" at the Royal Garden Hotel, Kensington, to be opened by the Employment Secretary, Lord Young of Grafton. The aim is to provide know-how and contacts for small businesses.

Exhibitors include the Government's Small Firms Service, London Chamber of Commerce, Midland Bank, Young Entrepreneurs' Fund, accountants Arthur Young and Ernst & Whinney, the Manpower Services Commission, Customs and Excise, and Allied Dunbar, the financial management group. The event - open from 10am to 7pm on Tuesday and 10am to 5pm on Wednesday - is sponsored by the Cranfield School of Management and others. Professor Paul Burns, who runs Cranfield's Small Business Development section, says that the entrepreneurs have been invited to join a seminar panel called *The Enterprise Culture - The Business of Success*.

Cranfield claims credit for having started the Graduate Enterprise Programme, sponsored by the MSC, which has helped more than 100 graduates to set up their own businesses, and says that more than 2,000 managers are sponsored by their companies each year to attend programmes at Cranfield.

Details: Admission by ticket only - free from Fibex (Financial and Business Exhibitions), 55 Catherine Place, London SW1E 6DY. Tel: 493 0000.

Alan Thomas

The man who is climbing the peak of new business

By Teresa Poole

Turning a hobby into a job has always been an attractive option for the enthusiast who wants to combine work and play but few pastimes offer a chance to earn a living.

In 1980, Hugh McNicholl decided to marry his mountaineering expertise to his engineering skills after seeing an advertisement for a New Enterprise Programme run by Glasgow University and the Manpower Services Commission.

After being accepted for the 16-week course which gave him a grounding in business and marketing skills, 41-year-old Mr McNicholl set up a company to manufacture ice axes. He put in £15,000 of his own money and received a similar amount of backing from the Highlands and Islands Development Board.

His company, Mountain Technology (Glencoe), based three miles from Glencoe in North Ballachulish, now employs five people to make 4,000 ice axes a year and has a turnover of £150,000.

Using a knowledge of advanced



Picking a winner: Hugh McNicholl, the mountaineer turned ice-axe-maker

materials picked up as an engineer with Rolls-Royce and a researcher at the University of Strathclyde, Mr McNicholl designs all the axes to meet the exacting requirements of top climbers.

This month, his company won an award from the Design Council for its range of seven axes.

Most business competition comes from France, Austria and Italy. "It took about five years to become accepted," says Mr McNicholl. Each year he attends the trade exhibition in Munich and has built up sales in the US, Switzerland and Germany. On his last trip he won orders from the Japanese and this should help double exports to about 30 per cent of sales over the next year.

"The combination of my knowledge as an engineer and what I know about mountaineering means I can combine what I know climbers want with what is technically possible," he says.

The company now also manufactures a range of other mountaineering equipment, including snow anchors, pitons and rescue aids.

Mr McNicholl is still an active climber but not as active as he would like to be. "This is the biggest disappointment of starting a business. The whole thing rests on my shoulders and I cannot just disappear to China for three months."

Last year he supplied equipment to the North East Ridge expedition to Everest and was due to go along as one of the climbers until pressure of work forced him to pull out at the last minute. "It is not possible now; I am just too busy."

Support comes from the local development board and the Scottish stockbrokers Parsons, who arranged a £20,000 cash injection through the Business Expansion Scheme. But Mr McNicholl cannot help but look enviously at similar companies with more than one director actively involved.

Plans for expansion include the launch of a crampon and improved foreign sales. As far as mountaineering is concerned, there will not be time to join the return trip to the North East Ridge but a trip to the Alps is planned.

BRIEFING

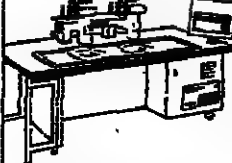
The Girobank yesterday launched a big new jobs initiative with £250,000 much-needed seedcorn capital for small businesses on Merseyside. The Girobank Enterprise Loans Scheme (GELS) will lend up to £25,000 to people wanting to set up in business or to expand. The scheme offers either an overdraft for working capital or a loan facility for capital purchases. Competitive interest rates are charged. Advances will not necessarily require security or a sizeable owner's stake.

The scheme, being run with the help of Business in the Community and local enterprise agencies, has been introduced in response to last year's call by Prince Charles for big banks to consider whether they were doing enough to help small businesses.

Contact: Manager Enterprise Loans, Girobank, 40-46 Dale Street, Liverpool L2 5TJ; 051-236 1122 x310.

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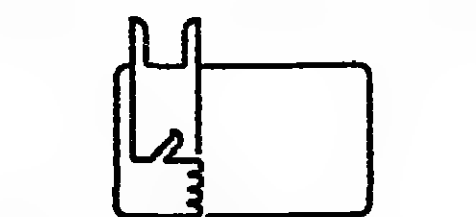
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Motoring by Clifford Webb

Ford promises an automatic Fiesta

An automatic transmission which does not turn a small car into a thirsty snail has eluded the combined research facilities of the world's motor manufacturers for the past 25 years. The problem is the lack of torque in small engines. To counter this research has concentrated on developing a Continuously Variable Transmission (CVT) which enables the engine to maintain fairly constant high revs while the ratios vary continuously to provide the optimum gearing for the required load.

A gearless automatic using a system of belt driven pulleys was pioneered by Daimler-Benz in 1905 and was later adopted by Volvo, Saab and other manufacturers on Volvo 300 models. It has several limitations, most of them arising from the use of a rubber belt.

However, the basic design proved so

attractive that engineers from Ford, Fiat, and Van Doorne Transmissie Holland have been working on it for the past 10 years. There have been repeated setbacks but now Ford says the troubles have at last been solved. A 1.1 litre Fiesta, designated the Fiesta CXT, will be offered this summer "with improved smoothness and significantly better fuel consumption than conventional automatics".

It is the second time in three years that Ford has made such an announcement. Early in 1984 it said it was investing £80 million to produce the system at its Bordeaux transmissions plant in France and the first example, also a Fiesta, would appear in mid-1984. It never did and was in fact quietly cancelled amid reports of problems with the technically sophisticated steel belt replacing the original rubber belt.

Ford may have been stampeded into

a premature announcement by the news that Fiat was planning to beat it into the market with a similarly equipped Uno. I drove early examples of the Unomatic in Italy and found them promising but still in need of further development.

The latest announcement by Ford says that the transmission will be produced initially in volume by Van Doorne and supplied to both Ford and Fiat. Production will later be transferred to Borgward which will also supply Fiat and any other manufacturer interested.

The start-up and multi-plate clutch systems used have been patented by Ford. Less hope that this time it actually gets off the ground. Judging from the number of letters I receive bemoaning the absence of small automatics it will fill a long felt need particularly among retired and handicapped drivers.

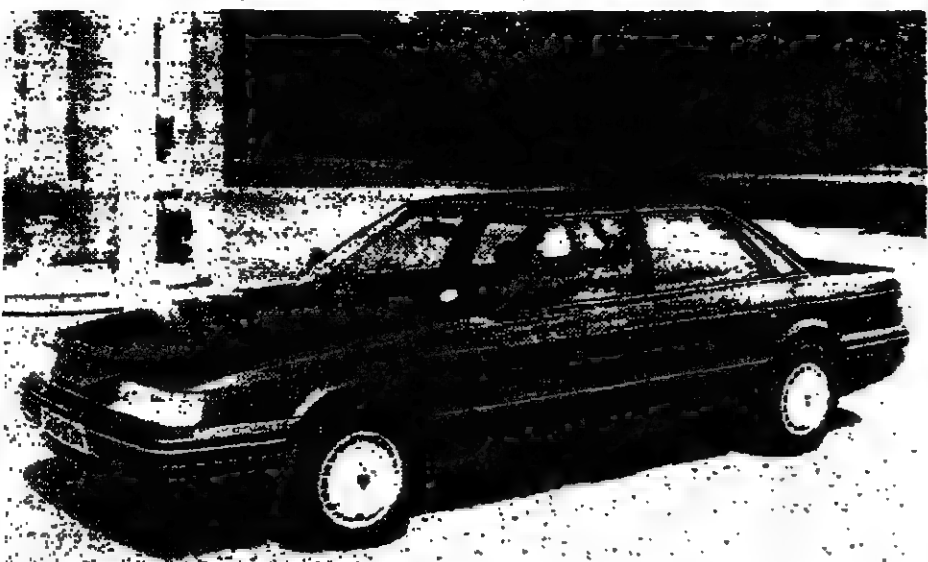
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a delight
to drive

It is now apparent that Austin Rover made a costly mistake when it decided to concentrate initial production and promotion on the expensive, top-of-the-range Rover Sterling instead of cheaper versions of its new 800 executive saloon.

The Honda powered 2.5 litre V6 Sterling costs almost £19,000 and for that amount of money buyers expect Mercedes/Jaguar/BMW standards of refinement and finish. You do not earn that sort of reputation by loading a car with every conceivable luxury and charging sky-high prices. You have to fight your way up the price range having first demonstrated that you can make a competitively priced, reliable, attractive car selling in a sector of the market where previously you had been singularly unsuccessful.

It may have been thought that the Sterling's Honda engine would have a bigger drawing power than the cheaper 820 models with new and smaller Longbridge 2.0 litre engine. Honda has a justified reputation for making excellent engines but on this occasion, it got it wrong.

The V6 is a beautiful piece of engineering - a senior Longbridge executive described it to me as "a jewel of



Rover 820i. Could prove corner stone of company's recovery.

precision engineering". But it relied too much on its Ford-made One success and in its present form the C25A engine lacks the lowdown lugging power so necessary for relaxed driving.

I have no doubt that Honda will rectify this. I understand the changes to the camshafts and other minor alterations would work wonders and that Austin Rover would like to do this in-house. Its agreement with the Japanese expressly excludes modifications to the engine but look out for a slightly larger 2.7 litre version with a much better torque curve which is reported to be ready for production in Japan.

In contrast, the new four valves per cylinder, double overhead camshaft engine from Longbridge is already winning accolades as one of

the outstanding 2.0 litre power units in its class. Some early versions were inclined to be noisy at high revs but the one I tested recently was both powerful and quiet. It had bags of torque where you need

Vital statistics

Model: Rover 820i
Price: £12,315
Engine: 1994cc four cylinder fuel injected
Performance: 0-80mph 8.8 seconds, maximum speed 126mph
Official Consumption: Urban 28.5mpg, 56mpg, 42.5mpg and 75mpg 34.3mpg
Length: 15.4 feet
Insurance: Group 6

it and combined with Honda's precise five speed gearbox and very light clutch was a delight to drive. Despite being smaller

its performance is embarrassingly close to the V6. The 820i is available with two versions of the British engine.

The cheapest at £10,994 is the 820E fitted with Lucas's single point fuel injection system producing 120bhp and 5,600rpm. The more powerful 820i uses Lucas's new multi-point system and is in my view the best value in the whole 800 range. For £12,315 you get a level of comfort and equipment which are impossible to find elsewhere. The interior styling and finish with walnut veneered facia, velvet covered seats and door panels have sales winning appeal.

Given the improved quality recently coming through in recent months the 820i could prove to be the corner stone of the company's recovery hopes.

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3. **ANALYSIS** - The analysis of the data was performed using the SPSS 16.0 for Windows (Chicago, IL) software package. The data were analyzed using a two-way analysis of variance (ANOVA) with the factors of sex and age. The results are presented as the mean \pm standard deviation (SD). The significance of the differences between the groups was determined using the Student's *t*-test. A *p*-value of ≤ 0.05 was considered significant.

RUGBY UNION

Video has the game all taped



Simon Barnes

to change it when they gybed and it had had the effect of a sea-breeze!"

If there is to be any blame for Australia IV's failure to reach the final this week, it falls on the Bond group as a whole — including the designer — Lexcen claimed. "We suddenly changed the boat right at the start when it was a rocket ship in heavy weather and paid for that all summer. We took 2,000 pounds of ballast off the boat, bent the stern up to shorten the waterline, and in order to add more sail — Australia II had too much in strong conditions, so I designed Australia IV's keel with a large package of ballast forward and a fin aft in an effort to get the lateral plane area to be the same as that of the boat. Everyone kept telling me that the boat needed more weight in the helm so I thought I had over-cooked it and added a canard forward of the keel. In fact, the problem was the exact opposite — Australia IV had too much weight in the helm and after we moved the helm forward six inches during the layline in the final series, the boat was transformed."

In contrast to reports at the time, the only other change made to Australia IV was the re-fairing of her wingtips — not a change of keel — and according to her designer, this did not have a detrimental effect on the Bond boat's performance. "If anything, she was faster than last year's boat because the Taskforce team raised their game even higher. In retrospect, I think that the Kookaburra hull lines are better than Australia IV but our keel, especially the one we never had the time to fit, which has an exceedingly low centre of gravity, is better than anything else. The boat which is really an Australia II type with wide wings."

"The Kookaburra crew beat us because their boat was faster. What they did was run a continuous research programme while ours went in jerks. We were always counter-punching rather than making things happen — reacting to changing situations rather than making the situation, which was the way we won the Cup."

Lexcen, who has announced his retirement from designing boats, is the first to wish Murray the best of luck in the finals, but it is a feeling tinged with sorrow. "He's taking on a new role as a research officer for the defence — that he is condemned to tend to twenty years of yacht designing. I really feel for him," he said, displaying a relieved smile.

& STRIPES

Keel

Trim tab

Wing

Lift

Koolaburra III

Freemantle - Sailing is a television sport with the potential to rival darts or snooker and took a giant leap forward in this week (Keith Wheatley writes) with the Grand Prix. Previously this Sydney dinghy race took to a short course over two days under the television cameras and the banner of the Grand Prix Sailing.

Freemantle, the World 18's skiff champion in 1986 and 1987, won the series and

A\$50,000 (£22,222). "It must be the biggest prize ever won in sailing," Brown said after his two-man crew had thrown him overboard.

All the boats have corporate sponsors, which they are named after. Brown's skiff has the prosaic name, Goodman Fielder, a New Zealand confectionery firm. Grand Prix Sailing has major investors in the form of John Cogan, better known as Paul Hogan's

partner and producer, and Michael Edgely, who promotes Turville and Dean. They expect to put in A\$5m before the circuit is profitable in 1990.

Meanwhile, the 11-board circuit moves to Auckland in Australia's Clear Lake, Texas, and then to Sydney for the December finale. Britain is likely to get a Grand Prix event in 1988 at Portsmouth.

By Peter Aykroyd

Many of Britain's brightest young male prospects for the 2 Barcelona Olympics will be competing for honours at the London Open Championships at the Jewish Leisure Centre on Sunday. This well-established event, which has attracted a wide range of talented players from all over the world, is held at the Zimbabwe national club who are currently visiting Britain.

Art Rainbird, of Huddersfield, is seeking to add the London senior title to his previous successes in the Championships of the last two years. He is one of the British youth representatives. However, his rivals also have a wealth of depth of ability. They are David Cox, of Southampton, and John White of Ennis, a resident of the Jewish Centre.

Phillip Allsop, of Southport, is the youth section's most talented player. He could well be a contender for the Bone, of Ennis, who is a player of immaculate style and quality.

[illegible]

Despite temperatures around 30C, flying conditions have been superb. The 1980 World Championships in Mount Buffalo, the first three days have been notable for the dominance of Australians and British pilots (a Special Correspondent writes).

Unpredictable thermal activity has left many competitors unable to complete the set tasks. Strong westerlies have also forced organizers to abandon the Mount Buffalo launch sites and use alternative mountains. The area also presents other hazards, some pilots being attacked by eagles during flight.

In the red grid, Ricky Duncan, the Australian, has flown twice for a substantial lead. The area also presents other hazards, some pilots being attacked by eagles during flight.

RESULTS
1. Duncan, 2,000m; 2. J. Farnham (GB), 1,643; 3. D. Jones (GB), 1,586; 4. K. Murray (GB), 1,575; 5. S. G. Jones (GB), 1,575; 6. J. Farnham (GB), 1,575; 7. J. Farnham (GB), 1,575; 8. J. Farnham (GB), 1,575; 9. J. Farnham (GB), 1,575; 10. J. Farnham (GB), 1,575; 11. J. Farnham (GB), 1,575; 12. J. Farnham (GB), 1,575; 13. J. Farnham (GB), 1,575; 14. J. Farnham (GB), 1,575; 15. J. Farnham (GB), 1,575; 16. J. Farnham (GB), 1,575; 17. J. Farnham (GB), 1,575; 18. J. Farnham (GB), 1,575; 19. J. Farnham (GB), 1,575; 20. J. Farnham (GB), 1,575; 21. J. Farnham (GB), 1,575; 22. J. Farnham (GB), 1,575; 23. J. Farnham (GB), 1,575; 24. J. Farnham (GB), 1,575; 25. J. Farnham (GB), 1,575; 26. J. Farnham (GB), 1,575; 27. J. Farnham (GB), 1,575; 28. J. Farnham (GB), 1,575; 29. J. Farnham (GB), 1,575; 30. J. Farnham (GB), 1,575; 31. J. Farnham (GB), 1,575; 32. J. Farnham (GB), 1,575; 33. J. Farnham (GB), 1,575; 34. J. Farnham (GB), 1,575; 35. J. Farnham (GB), 1,575; 36. J. Farnham (GB), 1,575; 37. J. 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At the ground on which Australia last played South Africa in Test cricket 17 years ago, Kim Hughes' unofficial side must achieve, what their predecessors could not: a victory, which in this case would mean the series would be squared.

Bill Lawry's team was thrashed in 1969-70, when South Africa had again about the strongest XI they have ever fielded. The sole survivor from that series, Graeme Pollock, now makes his final appearance for South Africa, other than in the round of one-day matches which commences tomorrow week.

The South African Cricket Union say there is no prospect of the Australians returning for a third tour. With the Rand having fallen in value and the SACU having had to cancel all its overseas encounters with the Australian Cricket Board, the current tour is not certain to be profitable.

The SACU say that next season will be given over solely to domestic cricket in South Africa, but then they have said that in the words of their managing director, Dr A. H. Bocher, "It is always easy to sign overseas players."

Today, South Africa field a new first bowler, Alan Donald, who is 20, in place of a batsman whom he can bowl, McMillan. He may knock him off the pitch here by taking, but at least his country's emphasis will be on attack, which was not always the case at Durban.

The Australians may be without Wesels.

SOUTH AFRICA C E B Rice (capt), S. Dook, B. Williams, P. K. Kirsten, R. G. Sibberton, J. H. van der Merwe, S. S. Roux, D. Henry, J. A. Page, A. Donald, M. J. Gubbins, T. M. Alderman, J. W. Harper, C. S. Brown, J. Dyson, K. L. Wesells, D. Sheppard, M. D. Heymans, G. Van Wyk, V. H. Hooper, R. H. Edgar, R. H. McGarry, J. McCurdy, T. M. Alderman.

Bombay (AFP) — The Pakistanis ran up 368 for three out of the opening day of their first Test match against an Indian Under-25 XI here yesterday.

Javed Miandad was captaining the Pakistanis in the absence of Imran Khan, who was resting, and after he had won the toss and elected to bat, Shoaib Mohammad launched the touring team's innings with a first-wicket partnership of 287 in only 340 minutes.

The stand ended when Shoaib hit the first ball bowled by the Indians' fast bowler, Manjinder Singh, for six.

But 116 with 13 fluent fours and Ramiz, the more aggressive of the two, went on to make 167 off 99 balls with 25 fours before securing a catch to Sanjeev Gaikwad from over the top.

Javed Miandad then made a rapid 50 net out off 49 balls, giving one chance.

Scores: Pakistan 368 for 3 (Miandad 167, Shoaib 116, Ramiz 116, Gaikwad 116, Sanjeev 99). India Under-25 116 (not out) v India Under-25 35.

credibility problem. It just holds us back every week that we don't have some kind of massive screw up."

Television is now a central part of all major sporting events. It is simply stupid to turn your back on the advantages that television can give.

Video replays have their disadvantages. They are clumsy. When they take time, they are not helping. They taken from the perfection of the game. But anything that can make the game fairer seems to me to be a good thing. Why should Maradona be allowed to cheat? Why should Ruffalo punch goals? Why should Ruffalo have such an unfair advantage over the real umpires?

The NFL will vote again on replays at their meeting in March. Television is a monster, but there is no point in wishing it away. It is here to stay. It is an undeniable sense to follow the NFL's lead.

Sgt Tony Mason, of 1st Battalion Royal Regiment of Wales, escapes from hand to hand combat (Photograph: Ian Stewart)

**By David Hands
Rugby Correspondent**

Dean Richards, the Leicester No. 8, is likely to return to action in the first of the matches which will come as a great relief to his club and country. An exploratory operation on Wednesday revealed only minimal damage to medial knee ligaments and Richards said yesterday that he hoped to be running in two weeks and playing in three.

The initial prognosis after Richards' injury, the latest playing against the Metropolitan Police last weekend was that he might be absent for the duration of the Five Nations championship. Richards himself said he was not going into Leicester Royal Infirmary and his optimism has been justified.

He misses his club's John Player Special Cup match with Bath on Saturday. Richards should Leicester emerge winners, is unlikely to have regained match fitness in time for the fourth round match against Bath on February 2. Similarly, he misses England's game against Ireland on February 10 and may not have proved his fitness in time to contest a place in the side to play France at Twickenham.

Nevertheless, it will be a comfort to have him available much earlier than expected and in view of the hard schedule English players have to follow in the first two weeks of the involuntary rest may be a hardship.

Richards himself, of course, may feel that he can ill-afford to lose his international place after only two caps and that, should England be successful in the first two games, the selectors will be distinguished to change him for a more experienced player. Surprisingly, though, if he is not back in the national side before the season's end.

While France prepare to

Wales team

P Thorburn (Neath)
G Webb (Bridgend)
K Hopkins (Swansea)
S Davies (Swansea Glam trust)
J Davies (Llanelli)
I Evans (Neath)
R Jones (Swansea)
J Whitlock (Swansea)
K Phillips (Neath)
S Evans (Neath)
W P Morfitt (Swansea)
S Davies (Swansea Police)
R Norster (Cardiff)
D P Pickering (Llanelli, capt)
D J Davies (Llanelli)
R Griffiths (Llanelli)
C Roberts (Llanelli)
C Macey (Swansea)
Griffiths (Llanelli), A Buchanan (Llanelli), W J James (Aberavon) and R Collins (South Wales Police)

play for Wales did eventually come the following season.

Jonathan Davies, who injured a shoulder in the third round Shropshire Cup match against Llanelli, has been told by the WRU medical adviser that, although the injury is not serious, he should rest as not risk aggravating his shoulder still further.

In this respect, it may be the crucial phase of play will be interesting to see how this phase will be refereed in the international championship.

In Great Britain, as anyone connected with the game will admit, is more complicated than any other to referee and is major source of the plethora penalties given in any match.

In this respect, it may be worth bearing in mind the view of Clive Norling who, despite saying at the start of the season that he would be unavailable for the first two years, has had a change of heart and is including with Winston Jones and Derrick Bevan, on the Welsh international panel.

"I don't disagree," he replies, "I don't think I've given anybody for a lineout infringement for three years."

Norling says: "A free kick, yes but no penalty."

The 7th Royal Horse Artillery, the holders, won the United Kingdom Cup in the final at Arsenal's Highbury stadium. Captain at the Military Stadium, Aldershot, yesterday, when they beat the 1st Battalion, Royal Regiment of Wales, 14-6. It was a convincing win as the English side scored four goals, while the Welsh to a dropped goal and a penalty goal.

Vicary, an astute scrum-half, his partner at stand-off half, scored the first try for the Welsh. Lewis, a triumvirate of Army players, had important roles in their side's victory. Vicary, whose subtle grub-kicking at scrum finding had formed a key part of the Welsh's strategy, landed two penalty goals, the first half to match those by the centre, Ponting, and the stand-off half, Ray Morgan.

Lewis's try, at the start of the second period, was born of a scrum, and following a wheel, the No. 8's powerful drive for the line, and another by Commander. 7RHA's best player, who scored the first of fully five minutes when the ball moved from right to left, flanked before a scrummage set ten metres out from the line on the right. Here, Lipton was tackled by the Welsh. Vicary slipped through the open side before wrong-footing the defence as he passed infield to Commander, whose short spring completed a well-executed move.

7RHA's victory means that they now move forward to meet the 1st Battalion, Welsh Guards, in the final at the Army Cup final to be played on Tuesday, March 12.

Royal Regiment of Wales, the Army Cup-holders, did make good things, but scarcely looked convincing. They were unable to come to place-kicking, Ponting, in common with all those who set their sights for goal, found difficulty in negotiating a flick

Schools rugby by Michael Stevenson

PATERSON-BROWN, of London Street, his first B cap on one day, and his club colleague, Jeremy Macklin, retains his place at No 8. The French have been seven changes from the B side that last fought in Oxfordshire although among those retained is Nieuwenhuis, the Narbonne No 8 now translated to the second row, who was sent off during the game at Pontypriid.

SCOTLAND are C Pinner (London), G Macfarlane (PFA), A Tate (Kilburn) & Scott (Slough's Mables Field). T Patterson (London Scottish) & A New (Wales), G Milne (Heaton Park), G White (Rugby), P Nugent (Hawick), capt., H Purdie (Dundee), J McFarlane (Glasgow), D Turnbull (Preston), J Macdonald.

STOOTHURST have had the odd hiccup in form but as the only team to earn a draw with the excellent Ampleforth side, they have proved themselves one of the better teams in the north, a view which was strengthened when they comfortably defeated Arnold School (37-7).

Their coach, Brian Ashton, described this win as "our best performance of the winter" but it is possible that he was even more delighted with their victory over Wednesday against Birkenhead School (0-16).

In fact, Birkenhead exerted all the early pressure but errors and wrong options prevented their scoring and one of the visitors'

DONCASTER GS and have won a nine matches; what is more remarkable is that they have scored 334 points and only conceded 44. The match with Doncaster GS, which they won 10-4, was easily the closest.

William Hubme GS have had a very successful start to their century. Their first X V have won all their games and scored over 300 points in the process. Perhaps their most satisfying victories were against Birkenhead (18-16), Merchants' Taylor's (21-10), Manchester City (21-10), Macclesfield (21-10) and Doncaster GS (12-3). St Bede's (21-0) and Barry GS (50-0).

Rickson's Struttford College

first seasons brought a "10" for their powerful senior half, Chris Mahon.

Then followed a brilliant try for Birkenhead, scored and converted by the full-back, John Wright, but a couple of penalties by Paul Flood and his conversion of a second try by Mahon, who took a skilful run to his back post, assured Stonyhurst of decisive victory.

Atkirk School may not be a name to trip familiarly off everyone's tongue, but their record this winter bears universal recognition. They have played some doughy rugby schools.

St Brendan's won all six matches against schools last term but were narrowly defeated 12-11 by Exeter College, Oxford, through a penalty goal in

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Pakistanis put youngsters to the sword

Bombay (AFP) — The Pakistanis ran up 388 for three on the opening day of their three-day match against an Indian Under-25 XI here yesterday. Javed Miandad was captaining the Pakistanis in the absence of Imran Khan, who was resting, and after he had won the toss

and elected to bat. Ramiz Raja and Shoaib Mohammad launched the touring team's innings with a first-wicket partnership of 287 in only 240 minutes. The stand ended when Shoaib fell to the first ball bowled by their leg-spinner, Manjrekar. He had hit 116 with 13 fluent fours and Ramiz, the more aggressive of the two, went on to make 167 off

Gene Barth, an NFL match official, said: "All of us guys were apprehensive about video in the beginning. But really when it has done is to take the heat off us. If we miss a call, it's corrected. Bang! We've got it all straightened and everybody forgets about it."

Tex Schramm, the beautifully named chairman of the NFL's competition committee and also president and general manager of the Dallas Cowboys, said: "I think we've overcome the technical problem. I feel confident we're ready to go. I don't have some kind of massive screw up."

Television is now a central part of all major sporting events. It is simply stupid to turn your back on the advantages that television can give.

Video replays have their disadvantages. They are clumsy. They take time. They are not always taken from the perfect angle. But anything that can make the game fairer seems to me to be a good thing. Why should Maradona be allowed to cheat? Why should Richie Rich have such an unfair advantage over the real umpires?

The NFL will vote again on replays at their meeting in March. Television is a monster and there is no point in wishing it away. It is an irresistible force. It makes sense to follow the NFL's lead.

- FREQUENCIES:** Radio 1:1053kHz/285m; 1068kHz/275m; Radio 2: 693kHz/433m; 909kHz/330m; Radio 3: 1215kHz/247m; VHF 92.5; Radio 4: 200kHz/1500m; VHF-92-95; LBC:1152kHz/261m; VHF 97.3; Capital: 1548kHz/194m; VHF95.8; BBC Radio

SPORT

Artificial pitches nipped in the bud by chairmen

By Clive White

The growth of the artificial pitch was halted for three years yesterday by the Football League chairmen at their extraordinary general meeting in Birmingham but it may be much longer than that before we see the plastic seed sown again in the professional game in England.

Manufacturers of the synthetic pitch said yesterday that further development would cease forthwith. Since it has been stated that it would take at least five to six years of further research to produce a pitch the equivalent of grass, it can be assumed that plastic has, temporarily at least, had its day.

West Ham United's proposal to suspend further introduction of synthetic surfaces was passed by an overwhelming margin: 75 per cent of the voting power of the 92 clubs at yesterday's meeting were in favour. Only two divisions voted against the resolution.

Luton Town, one of the pioneers of the artificial pitch, voted for the resolution on the understanding that a commission would be set up to examine and support research. This the League have agreed to do.

However, when the *Times* informed Don Gordon, the chairman of En-Tout-Cas, the company who have laid three of the four pitches in use in the League, of the League chairmen's decision, he said: "My immediate reaction is that if there is no business to

be had at the professional level we will not continue with development.

"Our development team for soccer pitches will be diverted to other sports. I would add the rider, though, that if the League can come up with some attractive proposal we will consider it."

Gordon did not subscribe to the view that it was inevitable that the artificial pitch would eventually be accepted. "Whenever something happens to stop innovation the energies are directed elsewhere. Some other sport will benefit," he said. "A moratorium on the Wright brothers would have stopped the evolution of the jet airliner," he had told the chairmen on the eve of the meeting.

Graham Kelly, the League secretary, said that the commission would comprise manufacturers, clubs, players and managers. But it will not

though, that the verdict was not a long-term vote against them. "This is simply a vote for a period of time in which everyone can gather themselves," he said.

"We simply do not agree to an extension in their present form. If, as the manufacturers say, they need another six years, these pitches shouldn't be in the League now. You don't usually have research and development in your mainstream of activity."

The resolution allows Queen's Park Rangers, Luton Town, Oldham Athletic and Preston North End to continue playing on and improving their artificial surfaces during the suspension. But the decision to allow 10 more clubs to lay such pitches has been rescinded. Similarly, Wimbledon and Peterborough United, who were awaiting consent, will not now be given it.

Bournemouth, one of the 10, had indicated that they would take the League to court if permission was withdrawn. Carter said: "We have taken legal advice and this resolution overrides any previous authority that was given."

Reg Driver, the secretary and a director of Aldershot, representing the associate member clubs, said: "Basically we are disappointed with the fact that clubs who had sought and been given permission are to be frustrated after going to the expense of arranging projects, some of which involved the building of multi-purpose stadia."

"Had those 10 clubs been given the go-ahead we would have voted for the hold-up ourselves. After all, if more than four clubs had been allowed to install pitches it would have been more of an incentive to manufacturers to continue to seek what we all hope will become the ideal surface."

Wolverhampton Wanderers have signed goalkeeper Mark Kendall, on loan with them for the past month, from Newport County for £25,000.

Coventry 'Brains Trust'

First division managers are to be called to a meeting with the Football League's "think tank" at Coventry on February 12. The League set up the special committee of Ron Greenwood, Bertie Mee and Jimmy Hill to consider methods of improving their product.

All 22 first division managers will be invited to Coventry, the League secretary, Graham Kelly, said.

Reid let off with a warning

The Charlton defender Mark Reid walked away from his "trial by television" with only a mild reprimand from the Football Association yesterday.

The former Scottish under-21 international had faced a charge of bringing the game into disrepute after he had been implicated by a television recording of Charlton Athletic's match at Norwich City on January 3.

The referee, David Axcell, was concussed during a mêlée after Reid had led a furious Charlton protest against the award of a Norwich equaliser.

But an FA official said after

the two-hour hearing: "He was guilty of a breach of FA rules regarding a technical assault on the referee and has been warned as to his future conduct."

Reid, aged 25, received only a warning because the referee and linesman still refused to blame him for the incident after watching a recording of the match at the disciplinary committee hearing.

Gordon Taylor, the Professional Footballers' Association secretary who conducted Reid's defence, said: "I can understand why the FA got us here today. They had to

establish it was a genuine accident with no intent by the Charlton player.

"The referee and linesman were under severe questioning in the light of a television recording, but they did not change their reports. The conclusion was a pure accident but because Mark stopped the referee running back it could be said that he was guilty of a technical offence."

Reid has never been suspended or sent off in his career and Lenzie Lawrence, the Charlton manager, said: "We are delighted with the verdict, which we consider to be a fair one."

Luton win as football loses

Two experiments, synthetic turf and the membership card scheme, were put on show at Kenilworth Road on Wednesday night. The evidence confirmed that both are deficient. Inside the stadium the second replay of the FA Cup third round tie between Luton Town and Liverpool was as artificial as the surface on which it was held.

Outside the ground the queues that stretched far down the side-streets shortly before the kick-off suggested that Luton's system is incapable of accommodating in adequate time even a restricted and relatively small crowd. Some 20 minutes after the start some spectators were still waiting to gain entry. Fortunately, they had missed nothing.

Those League club representatives who voted in Birmingham yesterday against West Ham United's proposal to postpone the installation of more plastic pitches might have been persuaded by the quality on view the night before. There was scarcely any Liverpool, in particular, were not even a shadow of the side that won the domestic double last season.

For an hour Luton were scarcely any better. Indisputably they deserved to win and by a substantial margin (they eventually did by 3-0) but the contest itself bore depress-

ingly little resemblance to the traditional English game let alone an FA Cup tie. As it bounced out of control, it slipped into tedious obscurity.

When Luton laid down their wall-to-wall carpet, it appeared to be a significant improvement on the version introduced initially by Queen's Park Rangers. The ball, which travelled around Loftus Road like a helium balloon, seemed to behave more realistically, though still far from ideally, on a surface softened with sand.

Yet to move comfortably around Luton's hard and slippery stage, players require the balance of ballet dancers. Only Seán and Walsh, once allies but now foes, ran without inhibition. To control the ball smoothly and consistently, they would have needed cushions wrapped around their boots.

Liverpool can be accused of psychological indiscipline (no one could remember seeing them so uncharacteristically tentative and Kenny Dalglish, their manager who complained vociferously about being forced to return to the surface he so detests, should accept a large portion of the blame. But they also deserve sympathy. To be removed from the Cup in such circumstances is thoroughly unsatisfactory.

Dalglish may yet regret the words that he uttered afterwards. For suggesting that Luton should have been thrown out of the competition for failing to travel to the first replay at Anfield 10 days ago, and that the second should have been held at a neutral venue, he could be charged by the Football Association for bringing the game into disrepute.

The economic advantages of a plastic pitch are obvious. Apart from the low cost of maintenance, clubs such as Luton, Rangers, Preston North End and Oldham Athletic can open their doors as often as they wish throughout the year. But the benefits will be outweighed for as long as the surface remains so far from duplicating the playing characteristics of grass.

Don Gordon, the chairman of En-Tout-Cas, whose product has been installed at Kenilworth Road, Deepdale and Boundary Park, claimed that a moratorium would prevent the advancement of the game. A similar decision, taken against the Wright Brothers and Dr Barnard, he stated, "would have stopped the evolution of the jet airliner and the progress of heart transplant operations."

But why should visitors such as Liverpool have to perform on a solid

floor that is foreign to them and to the game? Would English country cricketers willingly play on concrete? Would rugby forwards take easily to wooden boards? Would athletes accept running around tracks made of tar mac?

Wednesday night's game belonged indoors in a spacious gymnasium. Until the companies involved in artificial grass are able to supply a surface on which the outdoor variety can be properly staged, it would be wiser and fairer to allow nature, for all its faults, to continue on its course.

Luton were technically knocked out of the Littlewood's Cup for refusing to allow away supporters to enter their ground. As a capacity audience of 14,687 crickled through the turnstiles to watch the tie, even some of their own followers were kept out in the cold until almost midway through the first half.

The delay supported the view that the controversial system would be utterly impractical in large arenas. Had the match taken place in similar conditions at Anfield, for instance, the last spectator to be ushered in would probably have arrived in time to witness Harford's penalty. That was 11 minutes from the end.

Stuart Jones
Football Correspondent



Isis row into the crisis: Oxford's reserve crew may take the water on March 28, as they did on the Thames yesterday, unless Sunday's deadline is met

American calls on his rival to resign

By John Goodbody

The Oxford Boat Race unity took a new turn yesterday when Chris Clark, the American international who is the centre of the selection controversy, offered to give up his claim to a place in the Boat Race on March 28, provided that his rival, Donald Macdonald, resigns as president.

The row, unprecedented for sustained rowing in the 159 years of the race, continued unabated yesterday after Macdonald's ultimatum that, unless the crew restarted training by midnight on Sunday, Isis, the reserve crew, would represent Oxford on the Thames.

Clark said yesterday: "I met Donald last night and told him I had convinced the crew that I would stand down and they would row with Donald if he relinquished the presidency to Gavin Stewart as a sign of good faith so that the crew could start with a clean slate."

"He said he was not prepared to do that. He thought that it would not be a wise thing to do because it would mean admitting defeat."

Macdonald and another member of the Blue boat, Tom Cadogan-Hudson, trained yesterday at Marlow, as Isis had an outing nearby. The president, aged 31, a mature student at Mansfield College and father of three, said: "I spoke to Chris and he told me he had no further wish to row in the race. He is only interested in salvaging the race."

"If he could go one stage further and absolve his colleagues in the first crew of any obligation to continue their stand we could get on with training."

"The impasse was about the crew wanting to do the selecting. We were both operating the same criteria that you go

for the fastest crew, but it just happens there are two versions of what constitutes the fastest crew."

"I deny it is British versus Americans. Personalities have not been involved at all. Chris and I are friends."

"I think it may be time to get strategic. Our limitation talks going. Chris has talked about going home and bringing over fellow Americans to row and they may have perceived it as 'we have arrived, this is our show', which it certainly is not."

The row came to a head when the coaches led by Dan Topolski, who has inspired Oxford to a record 10 victories in the last 11 years, selected Macdonald, an old Blue, instead of Chris Clark, the American who also rowed in last year's beaten eight.

Most of the squad, including five Americans, rebelled at the decision. Seven of the eight coaches then voted to drop Clark from the entire training squad. This further antagonized the rebels but, in an attempt to defuse the crisis, Macdonald offered to move down to the reserve boat in exchange for Paul Gleeson, the Isis stroke, but insisted there was still no place for Clark.

Meanwhile Hugh Pelham, the club's secretary, said yesterday: "The fact that all these Americans came over here is an indication that Oxford is prepared to win at all costs but that has now backfired. It is sad that it has come to this row but winning is important."

"The bottom line for Isis is that they want to row but things must be sorted out by Sunday. They are not prepared to be messed around any longer."

For Richards and his team the times are a-changing

From John Woodcock, Cricket Correspondent, Melbourne

For the first time for 10 years West Indies' cricket is at the crossroads. Since arriving in Australia soon after Christmas their side have lost five out of eight one-day internationals; and if they lose again here today, to England, they will have little chance of qualifying for the finals of the Benson and Hedges World Series Cup.

This is a competition which the West Indies have played in four times and always won. They have brushed all opposition aside. Now, suddenly, they are not doing so, and Richards, their captain, is being tested as never before.

For various reasons he is finding it difficult to adjust to changing times. He knows, for one thing, that despite his unquestioned greatness as a batsman, there were those in West Indies who saw in his appointment as Clive Lloyd's successor a chancy recipe — mainly because of his inexperience.

A proud man and fanatical West Indian, Richards saw a racial significance in what happened in Somerset last year. It has made him all the keener to succeed. It has, I think, agitated him.

More than once in the last month he has hit out at administrators. He charged them once with waging "a particular vendetta to cripple the West Indian style of cricket." All the same, while it can have been no fun losing to Australia in Sydney on Wednesday, Richards found the right words for his opponents: "Good luck to Allan Border and the Australians. They played well."

When Lloyd started as captain of West Indies in the mid-1970s it was some time before he grew into the job. On his first tour to Australia as captain, in 1975-76, the fortunes of his side grew rapidly worse. But he, unlike Richards, had a lot of young and brilliantly talented players to work with.

Although no tactician himself, Lloyd saw what could be done by hammering his opponents with speed. It was ruthlessly simple and was

done well. The batsmen, on the whole, have not. Some of them, too, will soon be on their way out and because of the same lucky way that West Indians bowl at each other in the West Indies, quite often on bad pitches, there is a dearth of young replacements.

The fact that Logie has held his place for so long, without being quite good enough by the best West Indian standards, is an illustration of that. But West Indies may yet win the World Series Cup. On their day they are still more capable than any other side in the world of a collective display of unstoppable brilliance.

There are a lot of injuries about at the moment, mostly of a minor kind. Marshall's (blistered feet) and Garner's (knee) certainly did not prevent them from bowling beautifully against Australia on Wednesday. England, after a sick parade yesterday morning, cancelled their practice.

Several of them are having trouble with their arms, and the huge Melbourne ground is no place for that.

Australia have a party of 13 for Sunday's match against England at Melbourne. Bruce Reid, who missed the victories over England at Adelaide and West Indies at Sydney because of a groin strain, has a fitness test tomorrow.

When Dujon caught Taylor off Marshall on Wednesday, he beat the world one-day international record of 123 dismissals, held by Rodney Marsh, of Australia.

So far on this tour, the West Indian bowlers have, in fact,

SPORT IN BRIEF

Clamp on dirty play

The Rugby League disciplinary committee yesterday suspended Barry Higgins, the Castleford prop, for 12 months after being sent off after a stiff arm tackle against Leigh.

Double jab

Pat Cowdell will keep the British Boxing Board of Control meeting on February 11 busy. Cowdell will request the Board to install him as Najib Daho's next challenger in an attempt to avenge his first round defeat last May in a British junior lightweight title fight and give him a licence to promote in the Midlands.

Driving force

A prize of £1,000 and a £7,000 car for a record time is offered to the winner of the sixth Glasgow marathon

Killy resigns

Paris (AP) — Jean-Claude Killy, the triple Olympic Games skiing champion, resigned yesterday as president of the 1992 Albertville organizing committee following a decision to move the women's downhill and Super-G slalom from Les Menuires to Meribel, and the men's slalom from Tignes to Val d'Isère.

Derby delight

Derbyshire, frustrated in their attempts to find players, can register Devon Malcolm as an Englishman rather than an overseas player in future.

Green card

Houston (AFP) — Bela Karolyi, the Romanian coach of Olympic Games gymnastics gold medal winners, Nadia Comaneci and the Mary Lou Retton, the American, could become the United States coach in Seoul next year after applying for citizenship.

Hunt rejoins the chase

By Colin McQuillan

Geoff Hunt, the former world champion and record eight-time winner of the British Open championship, is planning a return to the tournament circuit at the age of 40 with a provisional schedule which could lead to an attempt at a ninth British title at Wembley in April.

Double jab

Hunt beat Jahangir in the 1981 British final, then lost to him in the World Open in Toronto that year and at the 1982 Chichester Festival. Apparently Hunt believes, five years on, that he can still cut a swath through the top players of the world.

Green card

When rumours surfaced this month of his intended return it was assumed he would be pursuing his old adversary, Jonah Barrington, through the rapidly developing over-35 level.

But Poole said yesterday "I am arranging for his entry in the Spanish Open, the French Open, the new Spring Tourney at Cannes, and the British Open."

SQUASH RACKETS

Hunt rejoins the chase

By Colin McQuillan

According to Geoffrey Poole, Hunt's British agent and manager, the former champion undertook corrective surgery for a stress fracture of the lower spinal vertebrae with the intention of returning himself to challenge Jahangir's record at the 1987 British Open.

Double jab

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